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Japan

Reactions to Kaifu Meeting With Bush Reported

Schism Surfaces Over Content

OW0503151090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1450 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Differences of opinion have surfaced over whether focal issues in Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Talks were really mentioned in the summit meeting between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and President George Bush in California last weekend. The debate was touched off by the announcement by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater Saturday that the U.S. President urged Kaifu at the talks in Palm Springs to do his utmost to solve three key issues. The three issues were tightened controls on the Antimonopoly law, the Large-Retail Shop Law, and Japan's opening of investment opportunities to foreign firms by expanding public works projects, all major issues in the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks, the spokesman said.

Kaifu, however, denied in the House of Representatives on Monday that he and Bush had dealt with such individual issues, adding the talks were not designed Prime minister told reporters the issues mentioned by the U.S. Government spokesman were not discussed in the meeting with Bush, although they may have been taken up at working-level consultations.

In a regular press conference, however, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto admitted the U.S. side mentioned individual issues in the Palm Springs talks, though details were not discussed. But he retracted his remark at an unusual news conference about two hours later, apparently under instruction from prime ministerial sources. The importance of the SII talks was stressed in the summit meeting, but concrete issues such as the Antimonopoly Law were not mentioned, Sakamoto said.

Bush 'Trialogue' Proposal Viewed

OW0603010190 Tokyo KYODO in English 2325 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—High-ranking Japanese Foreign Ministry officials on Monday expressed different views on the meaning of a "trialogue" proposal made over the weekend by U.S. President George Bush to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. One top ministry official said he thought President Bush proposed setting up a regular body to help resolve long-standing political and economic problems between Japan and the United States. Another top official at the ministry said, however, he thought Bush said he wants to promote the political trialogue among Japan, the U.S. and Europe.

Bush told reporters after meeting with Kaifu on Saturday in Palm Springs, California, that he presented his "conceptual framework" of a trialogue with the European Community (EC) for global economic and political policy coordination. He said U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama will continue to discuss the proposed policy coordination.

But Nakayama said Bush had proposed setting up a new body to discuss matters regarding relations between Japan and the U.S.

According to the first official, the President wants to set up a working-level consulting body, headed by the Japanese foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state. He added that the body would discuss bilateral relations over the next five or 10 years. The second top Foreign Ministry official, however, vehemently denied that Bush wants to set up such a consultative body.

Opposition Criticizes Kaifu

OW0403143290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1236 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan's opposition parties criticized Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu for a "lack of his own individual diplomacy" in just-ended talks with U.S. President George Bush. The leaders said they will query Kaifu in Diet sessions this week over how he proposes to honor his pledges to Bush to reduce trade friction between the two countries.

Japan Socialist Party Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi said the prime minister had accepted unilateral U.S. demands and had given undertakings to reform Japan's economic structure. Yamaguchi said Kaifu lacked his own form of diplomacy.

Japan should take the initiative in resolving what Bush requested before being pressed by Washington, he said. He also said it was strange that Kaifu did not raise difficulties in the U.S. over trade and budgetary deficits in talks with Bush in Palm Springs, California. He blamed Kaifu for positively responding to the U.S. demand to increase Japanese spending for U.S. forces in Japan, saying it was against moves toward arms reduction worldwide.

Komeito Policy Board Chairman Takenori Kanzaki said Japanese economic structural reform was not necessarily unreasonable and that Japan should take a flexible attitude toward increased public investment and the laws regulating large retailers and monopolies.

The cabinet controlled by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] lacks proper action in dealing with the Japan-U.S. relations, Kanzaki said.

Japan Communist Party Secretary General Mitsuhiro Kaneko said the Kaifu-Bush summit makes clear their position in maintaining the military alliance between the two countries. He said Kaifu was forced to accept the U.S. demand to increase Japanese payments for U.S. forces in Japan.

Yasuo Hayashi, chief of the Democratic Socialist Party's International Department, said the U.S. request to dismantle or reduce what the U.S. terms as structural impediments should be solved by Japan. He said the government and the LDP should be blamed for ignoring the problems till now.

Satsuki Eda, head of the United Social Democratic Party, said the prime minister should not propose only simple solutions to the U.S. requests. He said Kaifu should propose reasonable discussions among the Japanese people over the issues raised at the weekend meeting.

Meanwhile, Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said Japan should further expand domestic demand, ease regulations and narrow the price gap between domestic and foreign markets to realize a more prosperous life for its citizens.

'Difficulties' Seen for Kaifu

OW0503051790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0145 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Japan's major newspapers said Monday they foresee difficulties facing Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu following his promise in a meeting with U.S. President George Bush, to make maximum efforts for an early settlement of trade disputes. While Bush pressed Kaifu at their talks in California on Friday and Saturday to show his "political leadership," the Japanese prime minister said, "I am determined to firmly tackle structural reforms of Japan as one of the top priorities of my new cabinet with a view to improving the quality of Japanese life."

The ASAHI SHIMBUN, one of three mass circulation dailies, said in an editorial that Kaifu is now responsible for honoring the commitment. Kaifu must be ready for tough sailing in order to do the "homework" he brought back from Palm Springs, it said, noting that the domestic atmosphere is also tough.

Decades-long economic disputes between Japan and the United States have brought into question the Japanese way of economic management favoring business corporations and producers at the expense of the national livelihood, the ASAHI said.

Bush called for a tightening of the antimonopoly law, on easing of regulations on the retail system, and the opening up of the capital market—each of which no doubt will involve strong resistance from domestic industries, according to the ASAHI.

The Structural Impediments Initiative [SII] talks will fail unless a scalpel of inquiry is applied to Japanese corporations' strong competition and the closed nature of the Japanese economy, the ASAHI editorial said. Not only Kaifu but the whole political world will face a test of leadership with regard to their ability to settle economic disputes, it added.

Another major general newspaper, the MAINICHI SHIMBUN, said neither the ruling nor opposition parties have the courage to persuade voters of the need for changes which might undermine their benefits. The MAINICHI said Bush and Kaifu shared the perception that economic friction between the two countries has reached a serious point. A deterioration of bilateral relations is feared if Kaifu's resolve does not produce an outcome which is acceptable to the United States.

The MAINICHI editorial called for building a global partnership from a wider point of view, urging the Japanese Government to spell out its substantial contributions outside the economic sector, such as measures to help protect the global environment.

The country's largest daily, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN, welcomed the summit confirmation that friendly ties between Japan and the United States provide a basis for world stability. "We applaud these leaders for recognition of this important truth," it said.

In this regard, the YOMIURI said, "the world is in flux politically and we must not let trade friction between Japan and the United States negatively impact upon international stability." It added, "Japan has been averting an aggravation of Japan-U.S. relations with defense buildup efforts and increases in official development assistance. However, the seriousness of the trade issue has reached the point that no cooperation in noneconomic fields can compensate."

The YOMIURI urged the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to "recognize the seriousness of the situation and cooperate to solve the problems. We do not want to see Japan lag behind other nations in efforts to build political, economic and social systems suitable to this age of internationalization, it said.

A major business daily, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN (NIKKEI), said the Palm Springs summit clearly showed how important Japan-U.S. economic coordination is toward building a new international order after the cold war.

The NIKKEI said a new international order cannot be realized without a cooperative relationship between Japan and the U.S., whose combined gross national product (GNP) accounts for 40 percent of that of the world as a whole.

Not only Kaifu's political leadership but an active response and cooperation from the bureaucracy, political parties, and business corporations are required to compile an interim report on the SII, scheduled for April. This will test whether Japan can maintain a flexible social system capable of promoting its own transformation in response to changes in the world, the NIKKEI's editorial said.

A "conceptional framework" of a trialogue between Japan, the U.S., and the European Community, which Bush presented in the summit, may lead to a post-cold

war international order. Japan, as a major economic power, is responsible for taking part in international efforts to create such an order. To achieve that goal, Japan needs to establish a transparent and fair market, NIKKEI said.

SII Negotiation 'Most Important' Cabinet Issue

OW0603040890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0211 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Japan is prepared to receive a visit by U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills prior to the April deadline for a mid-term report on structural impediments initiative (SII) trade talks, top government spokesman Misoji Sakamoto said Tuesday. Sakamoto said he has not been officially informed of such a visit, "but if she comes of course we will meet."

"We do not have much time left, so we have to take up this problem in earnest," the chief cabinet secretary told a scheduled news conference following the twice weekly cabinet meeting.

After two days of summit talks with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu in Palm Springs, California, over the weekend, U.S. President George Bush said Hills, Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady or Secretary of State James Baker "will be on the next plane if it will help solve this problem."

Sakamoto said that Prime Minister Kaifu asked his cabinet for full cooperation on finding a solution to the SII talks, aimed at making business practices in the two countries more compatible. The SII negotiations are "the most important issue facing the cabinet," Kaifu was quoted as saying at the cabinet meeting.

In the talks launched last summer, the United States has asked Japan to boost public works spending and dismantle a law that impedes establishment of large retail stores, among other things. Japanese demands to the U.S. include boosting savings and investment rates, and reducing its budget deficit.

MITI Hints at Possible Repeal of Stores Law

OW0603140890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1303 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto on Tuesday hinted that Japan could abolish the Large-Scale Retail Stores Law if more deregulation-oriented implementation of the law fails to produce substantial results.

"We will first try and see if more relaxed implementation of the law can produce results," he said at a regular press conference following a cabinet meeting. "But if that turns out to be unsuccessful, we will have to take a more drastic step. Watch what I do," he said.

The law is one of the focal points in the ongoing bilateral trade talks between Japan and the United States aimed at solving the trade imbalance through overcoming structural problems.

The U.S. negotiators in the so-called "Structural Impediments Initiative" talks have called on Japan to repeal the law within a limited timeframe, while relaxing it until its abolition.

The Japanese Government has vowed to improve the way the law is implemented based on a midterm blueprint for Japan's distribution reforms, released by MITI last June. But the government had so far stopped short of any indication that it might consider repealing the law because of strong opposition from small retailers, who have traditionally been loyal supporters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

The law is designed to protect small retailers from their large-scale competitors by restricting business operations by the big players. It requires large stores to gain the approval of all small shops in an area before it can begin operations there. It also imposes a long waiting period, as long as 10 years in some cases, before stores can actually be established.

The U.S. trade officials charge that the law is a virtual nontariff trade barrier to imports because small shops seldom sell imported goods. The U.S. also insists that the regulation restricts entry into the Japanese market by foreign retailers.

The law has also been singled out as a factor that makes Japan's distribution system complicated and keeps prices high, thereby preventing consumers from enjoying the merits of a higher yen by buying cheaper imported products.

Muto's remarks apparently took both the government and distribution industry by surprise. MITI itself later rushed to downplay Muto's bombshell. A top-ranking MITI official said, "the minister's remarks only stressed the need for political decision on the issue." "MITI is not considering revising, let alone abolishing the law," he said. "I will make clear to the U.S. the true intention behind the remarks to forestall any misunderstanding," he added.

The official's words reflect MITI's stance that a relaxation in application of the law would be more effective because abolition is likely to lead to a proliferation of regulations by local governments. Another senior MITI official underscored the position by saying, "the U.S. side well understands that relaxation will be more effective."

The distribution industry reacted with worry and anger to Muto's unexpected statement. A senior official of a large supermarket chain said, "repealing the law will require a long period of laying the ground work. If abolition is not followed by such relief measures as assistance for small shops to transform into convenience

or specialty stores, it will only create great confusion for the entire industry," he said.

A managing director of another supermarket chain said, "as long as local governments impose restrictions on large-scale shops, abolition of the law will make little difference. The first thing that the government should do is to loosen the law and reduce locally imposed restrictions as much as possible," he said.

A senior official of an industry organization grouping small shopkeepers said, "We can never accept abolition of the law before a relaxation is tested."

The LDP is far from monolithic on the issue. A top LDP Diet member said, "It is quite difficult to get a party consensus for repealing the law since many party members fear strong opposition from our small shop supporters."

Keidanren Head Urges Review of Rice Import Ban

OW2302113290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1038 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—The head of one of Japan's most powerful economic organizations on Friday called for a review of Japan's ban on rice imports, saying it will not be accepted internationally. Eishiro Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said the Government should discuss its rice policy and not stick to a resolution by the ruling and opposition parties calling for a total ban on rice imports.

"It's quite possible that refusing to import rice will not be accepted (internationally)," Saito said at a press conference. He said it is inevitable that the rice issue will be raised at multilateral trade talks like the Uruguay Round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

His remarks echoed comments made by other business leaders since Sunday's election for the House of Representatives. Eiji Suzuki, president of the Japar Federation of Employers' Association, early this week criticized Japan's ban on rice imports and urged the Government to discard what he called "an opportunist policy" on rice.

Keidanren Vice Chairman Akio Morita, a[lso] appearing at the press conference, joined Saito in calling for a review of the country's rice policy. Morita said that, considering the issue from a general point of view, Japan "must bear certain pains in order to live in cooperation" with other countries.

Asked to comment on two days of Japan-U.S. talks on structural impediments to bilateral trade, Saito questioned tough U.S. demands put forth on the first day of the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) Thursday. U.S. officials demanded Thursday that Japan abolith its law limiting the opening of new large stores and raise penalties for companies violating the Antimonopoly Law.

"I wouldn't say they are a kind of interference with internal affairs, but it's too much for (the U.S. side) to speak of the abolition of Japanese laws," Saito said. Saito said the two should make compromises with each other to see that the SII talks end successfully with benefit for both.

Japan, U.S. To Hold Talks on Timber Issue

OW0503151190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Japan and the United States will hold talks next week on timber trade in an attempt to resolve the dispute over what the U.S. calls Japan's "unfair" trade practices concerning wood products, officials of the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry said Monday. Experts from the two countries will probably meet in Washington on March 14-15, the officials said.

Under the so-called Super 301 provision of the 1988 U.S. Trade Act, Japan has been singled out for allegedly using technical standards, particularly for construction of multifamily dwellings, to restrict timber imports. During the previous talks on timber, the U.S. asked Japan to reclassify certain products to enable them to qualify for lower tariffs and to simplify construction and product standardization procedures.

The talks next week will be focused on the U.S. requests, the officials said. The meeting will be the first working-level bilateral trade talks after the meeting between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and U.S. President George Bush last weekend.

Cocom Efforts To Relax Controls 'Epoch-Making'

OW1602142190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 16 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 16 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Friday applauded a decision taken late Thursday by the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (Cocom) to ease its controls on exports of sensitive high-technology products to East-bloc nations.

Officials at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said the decision is epoch-making in that it marks the beginning of a "structural change" of the Paris-based Cocom. They said the move reflects sweeping changes on the political and economic fronts worldwide.

The 17-nation watchdog body on sales of potentially strategic goods to communist nations decided at its executive meeting held in Paris on Wednesday and Thursday to relax its export limitations on telecommunications equipment, computers and machine tools. The

committee also agreed to reduce the period required to process export permission to eight weeks from the current 12 weeks.

The United States, which originally wanted to reform the rules for Eastern Europe but not for the Soviet Union, eventually made a concession and agreed to liberalize high-tech exports to the Soviets as well. Behind the U.S. consession was the likely limited effectiveness of the curbs after the partial relaxation, as well as Washington's own praise of recent political reforms in the Soviet Union, the officials said.

"Whether we keep controls on exports to the Soviet Union or not, high-tech products will be diverted to the Soviets through Eastern Europe, where these things are easily available even now," one official said.

But MITI officials didn't expect the relaxation to boost East-bound exports immediately. "What the East needs most now is mainly technologies for heavy industry, not the kind of technology the Cocom regulates," another official said. Business circles, meanwhile, echoed MITI's views, saying the liberalization is unlikely to have an immediate effect on trade between Japan and East-bloc nations.

But they said the relaxation will make it much easier for them to do business with such countries. The concerned industries are anxiously awaiting the revised list of items to be controlled in the three fields, due to be completed by the end of May.

Cocom groups Japan, Australia and all 16 NATO countries except Iceland.

Future of USFJ Communications Bases Examined

OW0103130090 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 24 Feb 90 Morning Edition p 3

[Article by Kenichi Shindo, KYODO NEWS AGENCY editorial staff member: "USFJ Bases To Be Reorganized"; accompanied by three aerial photos—showing the so-called "command cave" in Yokosuka Base, semiunderground command post at Kamiseya Communications Base, and a rhombic antenna under construction near the golf course at the Hotogatani Country Golf Club]

[Text] Attention is focused on the future of U.S.-Soviet disarmament policies following the democratization of East Europe and the Soviet Union. U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney, who visited Japan, proposed a 5,000 troop reduction of the U.S. Forces in Japan [USFJ] at a Japan-U.S. defense summit meeting. On the other hand, he hinted at a subtle position of the USFJ and said: "The disposition of Soviet forces in the Far East has not changed. It is necessary to firmly maintain the Japan-U.S. security structure." Commander of the U.S. Pacific Forces Hardisty also said: "The U.S. forces in Okinawa, which is located in an important area of Northeast Asia, is a vital frontal deployment unit."

Defense Secretary Cheney's studious visits to bases in Okinawa, Yokosuka, and Misawa substantiate the fact that a recent plan to review and consolidate USFJ bases is of a different nature from withdrawal or closure of bases in South Korea and the Philippines.

Under such circumstances, KYODO NEWS AGENCY took aerial photos of Kamiseya Communications Base and Yokosuka Base, home port of the aircraft carrier Midway, in Kanagawa Prefecture from a helicopter and saw their actual condition. The USFJ provides the most sensitive and strict guarding of the bases, which are kept in secrecy.

A forest of massive antennae cover a huge stretch of land on Kamiseya Communications Base, which is surrounded by a farm field where carrots, Japanese radish, and other crops are grown. At one of the base's gates, there is a sign, which says "No Photographing Within the Area." There is a semiunderground facility, which resembles a small hill, only 100 meters north of Seya prefectural housing estate. At first glance, it looks like a powder magazine, but careful watch reveals that they are parabolic antennae, which are used for satellite communications and a forest of directional antenae on the top [of the mound]. A sign on a factory-like building in juxtapositon says "The First Air Wing patrol Command of the Seventh Fleet." This is a unit which analyzes information on nuclear submarines and sends out attack orders. The information is gathered by antisubmarine patrol crafts P-3C Orion, which are dispositioned by the Seventh Fleet at four locations, Misawa, Kadena, the Philippines, and Guam, and by sound surveillance system (SOSUS) set in Japanese waters.

In addition to performing the aforesaid functions, "Kamiseya" catches radio waves dispatched by such countries as the Soviet Union, North Korea, and China, and plays the role of a relay station connecting warships and airplanes of the Seventh Fleet and Yokosuka. It is a pivotal facility for C cubed I (communication, command, control, and intelligence), which is indispensable to modern warfare. Because of this, fully equipped soldiers with rifles keep strict watch and make 24-hour patrols.

The U.S. forces is constructing an odd-looking antenna on the south side, where it is close to the prefectural housing estate. On the east side adjacent to the golf course, six poles are standing in an hexagonal plot, and shorter loop antennae are arranged in a star-shaped formation at regular intervals on the west side. It is quite a strange sight.

In this connection, Mr. Osamu Inagaki, a military affairs commentator, states his concerns over the consolidation of the base functions as follows: "Of late, the United States has changed its strategic communications system. Since the Navy has changed its communications machines for ASW (antisubmarine warfare) analysis, it will be necessary to rebuild antennas, and rope-type antennas will be the same as the ones built at the suburb

of Wakkanai by the Ground Self-Defense Forces two or three years ago. The objective in building such a system is to capture radio waves from vessels (submarines) and to measure the direction.

During the past few years, functions have been consolidated at the Urago ammunition storage area of the U.S. forces at Yokosuka, the mother port for the USS Midway, which has been suspected of carrying nuclear weapons. The tunnel-type ammunition storages dug through the rocky hills can be vaguely observed over the dike. An orange, octagonal plate with the number "1" is attached to the gray, iron door. According to the U.S. forces' manual on fire fighting, this sign indicates high-capacity top-grade explosives, including nuclear weapons. And it is surprising that all the signs used at the Urago ammunition storage bears the number "1". There are also signs of protective garments and gas masks that indicate the existence of nuclear weapons there. Containers carrying "Asrock," or "Bullpack" [names as published], nuclear or nonnuclear antisubmarine missiles, are stored in open air.

According the the explanation given by the U.S. side, the reduction of the number of personnel this time is aimed at cutting down expenses while promoting "efficiency and rationalization". However, it does not seem that there will be any deterioration of the war potential of the U.S. forces in Japan.

Defense Official Comments on Cheney's Remarks

OW0503122890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 5 KYODO—Japan will independently consider increases in its share of the cost to maintain U.S. bases in Japan, Vice Defense Minister Seiki Nishihiro said Monday. Nishihiro made the remark in reference to earlier remarks by U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney urging Japan to pay all yen-based expenses for future maintenance of the bases.

Cheney, who visited Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines last month, told Cable News Network (CNN) on Sunday he would like to see Japan pay all Japan-related expenses, including the cost of employing Japanese base personnel.

Nishihiro said the Japanese Government would try its best to increase its financial share of maintaining the U.S. bases in Japan.

PRC Exiles Offer To Testify for Hijack Suspect

OW0603090390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Fukuoka, March 6 KYODO—Because suspected Chinese hijacker Zhang Zhenhai took part in last June's pro-democracy movement in Beijing, he should be recognized as a political prisoner who must be protected from extradition to China, his Japanese lawyers said Tuesday. According to Zhang's lawyers, their client was under constant surveillance by Chinese public security authorities after he participated as a leader of a workers' group in the Tiananmen Square protest.

Another leader of that group and other Chinese exiles who participated in the protest have offered to testify that they saw Zhang at the rallies, the lawyers said.

Zhang, 36, has been detained here on charges he hijacked an Air China airliner on December 16 that was en route to New York from Beijing. Zhang has told the lawyers that he attempted to flee China twice to avert political prosecution but failed. Hijacking the plane was his last resort, he said.

Chinese authorities have said Zhang is free on bail but are demanding his extradition.

Zhang urged the Tokyo Immigration Bureau on February 24 to recognize him as a refugee and to give him asylum, but authorities turned him down. Zhang's lawyers then sought to disqualify Zhang as a refugee and called for a halt to his extradition. His attorneys now plan to apply to the Tokyo High Court for recognition of eyewitnesses to Zhang's participation in the pro-democracy movement.

An estimated 10,000 workers were reportedly arrested for participating in the student-led protest last June that sought greater reforms. The government suppressed the movement with military force.

Kaifu Supports Conference on Korean Issue

OW0603110290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Tuesday he supports a meeting of major powers to help find a peaceful resolution to tensions on the Korean peninsula. But Japan does not plan to take the initiative in setting up such a forum among the two Koreas, China, Japan, the Soviet Union, and the United States, Kaifu told a plenary session of the House of Representatives.

The statement came in response to a proposal by Democratic Socialist Party Chairman Eiichi Nagasue that Japan take the initiative in launching a forum to discuss peace on the peninsula, and build confidence by arranging advance announcements of military exercises. The talks could also cover expanded technical and economic exchanges and human rights, Nagasue said. The idea for a consultative conference was first put forward by South Korean President No Tae-u in a 1988 speech to the United Nations.

Kaifu replied that peace on the Korean peninsula must be achieved through direct dialogue between the North and South. "But I think it would be extremely meaningful if related countries directly exchanged opinions," the prime minister added.

Kaifu said that Japan would support an initiative, if proposed, and reiterated Japan's policy of establishing government-level contacts with Pyongyang. The two countries do not maintain diplomatic ties.

Asked about defense spending, Kaifu said he is aware of pressures by the U.S. Congress to increase such expenditures. But he refuted a suggestion from Japan Communist Party Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa that Japan's defense budget is influenced by American pressure to expand its military spending to 3 percent of gross national product from the current 1 percent. "Our defense efforts are based on our Constitution and defense policies, and are an independent response to our security needs," Kaifu said.

At a House of Councillors session earlier in the day, Kaifu pledged to coordinate economic interest groups in preparation for an interim report due next month on Japan-U.S. structural talks.

Mongolian Premier Visits Seto-Ohashi Bridge

OW0303113290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1116 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Okayama, March 3 (KYODO)—Mongolian Prime Minister Dumaagiyn Sodnom visited Okayama and Kagawa Prefectures in western Japan and crossed the world's longest suspension bridge, Seto-Ohashi, connecting Japan's main islands of Honshu and Shikoku. Sodnom and his 18-member party arrived in Okayama by Shinkansen bullet train in the morning.

They visited a copper refinery in Tamano, Okayama Prefecture, and then crossed the bridge by car.

Sodnom, in Japan since Tuesday for a six-day official visit, met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and met Emperor Akihito in Tokyo before coming here.

He is scheduled to leave for home from Tokyo Sunday.

Cabinet Adopts Consumption Tax Revision Bills

OW0603055490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0351 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tokyo, March 6 KYODO—The cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Tuesday adopted a set of four bills for submission to the Diet, aimed at revising the 3 percent consumption tax, officials said. The bills call for exempting from taxation foods at the retail level and for reducing the tax rate to 1.5 percent at all other levels of distribution. Costs of births, funerals, education and housing rents will also be exempted from the tax.

Four opposition parties, calling for abolition of the consumption tax, said they are opposed to the government's revision bills and will submit their own package of bills designed to kill the tax.

Following the passing of six tax reform bills in December 1988, the government imposed the consumption tax on almost all types of goods and services in April 1989.

Prime Minister Kaifu and his ruling Liberal Democratic Party bounced back from a major defeat in the July 1989 election for the House of Councillors to win a majority of seats in the February 18 general election for the House of Representatives. During the election campaigns, Kaifu promised a complete revision of the unpopular tax.

TV Carries Cabinet Members Roundtable Discussion

OW0403070290 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1300 GMT 28 Feb 90

[NHK special program: "New Cabinet Members Roundtable Discussion," with Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Home Affairs Minister Keiwa Okuda, Defense Agency Director General Yozo Ishikawa; Tomio Yamamoto, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries minister; and Kabun Muto, international trade and industry minister—moderated by NHK commentator Kazuo Okamoto—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Okamoto] Foreign Minister Nakayama, you have been appointed to your post for the second time. What are your aspirations for your reappointment?

[Nakayama] Well, it was on 10 August last year that the first Kaifu cabinet was formed. It was in late September last year that the great historical changes, manifested by the new democratization or liberalization movements, began in several Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union. It led to the downfall of the Ceausescu regime in the CSSR on 26 December. I was put in charge of foreign affairs in the Kaifu administration at a time of such drastic changes and moves.

Thinking calmly of those days, I am happy that I can tell our people now that the Kaifu administration was able to do a good job of steering Japan's foreign affairs without committing any serious errors.

[Okamoto] Indeed.

[Nakayama] Under such circumstances, I think our major task in the future is to work out and maintain Japan's position in international politics in greeting the 21st century.

[Okamoto] Finanance Minister Hashimoto, you have also been appointed to your post for the second time. Would you tell us about your aspirations for your reappointment?

[Hashimoto] Well, I feel that I will need our people's continued assistance now. At the moment, I am facing many puzzling problems. In the past few days I have had to keep a watchful eye on stock market and foreign exchange movements. I feel somewhat relieved today because the decline has been minor.

Shortly we will have to ask the Diet to discuss the draft supplementary budget for fiscal 1989 as well as the draft budget for fiscal 1990. Furthermore, to promote the tax

system reform further, we had the consumption tax system reviewed by the party late last year. We received recommendations from the government's Tax System Research Council. And so, we have now worked out a plan to revise the consumption tax system. In submitting the plan to the Diet for deliberation, we will inform the people of its details and try to win their understanding, because we have done our best in working out the details.

In addition, there is another issue the foreign minister did not mention. At the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative [SII] talks on 22 and 23 February, the U.S. side offered many suggestions. Frankly speaking, there were gems as well as stones among them. From now on, we must pick out the gems and make joint efforts to polish them and perfect them, because the Japan-U.S. relationship is Japan's foothold in the world. And because we will need our people's assistance in selecting and polishing such gems, I feel that we may on occasion have to trouble them. [passage omitted]

[Okamoto] Now that the second Kaifu cabinet has been launched, it seems that it has a very busy schedule. Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto, Prime Minister Kaifu is scheduled to visit the United States and hold talks with President Bush in Palms Spring the day after tomorrow. It seems that the decision was made in a rush. What will be the topics they will discuss at the talks?

[Sakamoto] Prior to the talks experts discussed various issues at the Japan-U.S. SII talks. Rather than discussing individual or concrete issues that were brought up at the SII talks, I think the two leaders will talk from a more extensive perspective and without restraint, or by laying bare their hearts as we say in Japanese. I think that in this way, they will have a personal exchange of views on major policies, which will eventually lead to the settlement of various problems. Or, should I say, they will try to settle problems from the top down or through summit diplomacy? As far as Prime Minister Kaifu is concerned, the visit will provide him with an excellent opportunity to promote prime ministerial diplomacy. We place great hopes on the visit.

[Okamoto] Well, you mean to say that instead of talking about such individual issues as the SII talks or Super 301, they will discuss global issues or on the Japan-U.S. relationship from a broader perspective?

[Sakamoto] Of course, they will also discuss a few practical problems.

[Okamoto] Yes, naturally.

[Sakamoto] However, I think that what is more important is that it is good for them to talk from a broader perspective.

[Okamoto] I would like to ask Foreign Minister Nakayama a question. Just now, you talked about drastic changes in the international community. Now that the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union has come to an end, so to speak, and now that economic frictions between Japan and the United States have intensified, there is concern about the future of the relationship between Japan the United States. What do you think of that from your perspective as foreign minister?

[Nakayama] As far as I am concerned, I feel that our trust in the Japan-U.S. relationship has not decreased at all and that it should not be allowed to decrease in the future. We will maintain our friendly relations with the United States as before. However, while maintaining such relations, we must keep in mind that both Japan and the United States are independent nations. Hence, when frictions arise, it is necessasry for our two nations to hold consultations in various forms and to make efforts to settle the points at issue.

As minister in charge of foreign affairs, I will give you my frank opinion. I think it was on 1 September last year, if I am not mistaken, that the first Japan-U.S. summit talks were held in Washington, and I was present at the talks. Since then, drastic changes have taken place in Eastern Europe and Prime Minister Kaifu last January held individual talks with European leaders to exchange views on various international problems. The two top leaders will meet each other during the short Diet recess following the general election. With the approach of the 21st century in mind, they will discuss various problems as global partners, as the chief cabinet secretary has just mentioned. They will talk about how the two powers will cooperate in dealing with various problems, including the environment, drugs, population, environmental pollution, and philosophical issues as well. It is quite posible that the issue of structural consultations will be discussed. However, we will persist in exchanging views from the philosophical viewpoint.

[Okamoto] Well, we can understand quite well what you have just said. The leaders will hold their talks by taking the 21st century into consideration—with their eyes fixed on that century. However, we may be a little impatient. We are concerned about the various problems confronting us now.

Finance Minister Hashimoto, you have just mentioned that at the SII talks held last week, the U.S. side presented various suggestions or requests....

[Hashimoto, interrupting] Ideas.

[Okamoto] Oh, yes, ideas. You said that their ideas include both gems and stones. Would you please explain further?

[Hashimoto] Well, I would like to avoid going into details about indvidual problems. However, taking advantage of this opportunity, I would like to request your understanding of some points. There have been extensive reports in Japan that there have been many negative factors. However, at the outset of the SII talks and before they started briefing us on their ideas, the U.S. side pointed out its favorable appraisal of the following facts: According to the draft budgets for fiscal

1990, deficit-financing bonds will be abolished, the amount of contruction bonds will be reduced to some extent, the sale of NTT [Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation] stocks will be suspended, and the total amount of investment in public works, including the NTT's non-interest loans, will be kept at a considerably high level. The U.S. side mentioned those at the start of the SII talks.

Based on that appraisal, the U.S. side proceeded in the talks by stating that it would like to offer Japan such and such ideas concerning structural coordination between our two nations in the future. And the Japanese side made similar offers to the U.S. side. I feel that when negative factors are emphasized in reports, the relationship will become a very difficult one. I hope that the press will pay attention to this point in the future.

Well, I am not quite sure how many ideas were brought up in the talks. It was a considerably large number. Perhaps, about 110. Becausee they were brought up only recently, we have not yet examined them thoroughly. However, for example, there is the idea of rearranging and improving each other's living environment. I think that this is something that our nation should tackle without waiting for other nations to point it out for us.

Furthermore, Japan has had to implement considerably tighter budget plans in the past few years. However, we maintained quite a high level of financial flow in terms of investments in various fields to improve our living environment. That level is higher than those of European nations and the United States. If we continue our efforts in that area, we will not be doing so for the sake of other nations. We will be making further efforts in that area so that both our nations can live in a better environment. Certainly, I don't feel that among the many ideas, negative factors will continue to exist all the time. I feel rather that we should pick out the gems among the many ideas and polish them. That is a field in which we need cooperation.

[Okamoto] Of course, some problems over which Japan and the United States clash directly with each other were also brought up at the talks. MITI Minister Muto, now that the third SII talks have concluded and the Japanese side is expected to submit an interim report in early April, there is only less than a month left. Concerning that, I think Japan will have to prepare.

For example, among the U.S. demands, one concerns the abolition of the Large Store Law [LSL], or the law on large-scale retail stores. Another concerns improving the Anti-Monopoly Law regulations. Concerning those demands, what is the view of the MITI minister, or the MITI ministry?

[Muto] Well, I do not think that the LSL is such a bad law that it has to be abolished. The law has hitherto been enforced because it is needed to maintain order in the circulation system. However, as the U.S. side has frequently pointed out, there are cases in which no actions are taken for 10 or 12 years after applications for registration have been submitted in accordance with the LSL. Well, I think that it must be a very rare case. When I look around cautiously and check other similar cases, I think such cases are certainly very rare. However, the fact that such cases do exist, as the finance minister has just pointed out, is undesirable from the viewpoint of the Japanese circulation system. Certainly neither is it desirable for consumers themselves. Hence, it is necessary drastically to revise the standards for enforcing the current LSL. I feel that it will be necessary for us to work out rules so that such an issue can be settled appropriately in, say, a year, or a year and a half.

Well, because there are many small-scale businessmen who may have their own complaints, it is certainly not an easy task. In fact, I have tried to do something for those businessmen from their viewpoint. In that connection, my position has now been reversed. However, because I am on good terms with them, I would like to hold talks with them to ask for their understanding of Japan's current position and the relations between Japan and the United States, and persuade them as early as possible to agree to work out reasonable rules. As you have just mentioned, Japan will have to submit an interim report in April. At least. I would like to complete that assignment by then. Because there are less than two months left, I am not sure whether or not I can succeed. Anyway, I would try to....

[Okamoto, interrupting] Although the U.S. side demands that it should be abolished, Mr. Minister, do you feel that this issue might be settled through such measures as improvement in management? Because you just assumed the post not long ago, it might be difficult for you to answer this question.

[Muto] At such structural consultations, I think our two sides should bring up various points that both sides should try to revise and improve dramatically. In that connection, the point at issue is not merely to listen to our counterpart when ideas are brought up, and to give an affirmative reply by agreeing to abolish it. On the contrary, I feel that the problem should be debated from the viewpoint of whether or not the LSL is needed in maintaining the current circulation system. I think that what the U.S. side has pointed out concerns management, and the dissatisfaction has resulted from the fact that the application has been ignored for such a long time. At any rate, I think that the problem can be settled without abolishing the law, if only some rules allowing easier application could be worked out.

[Okamoto] Yes, I understand now. Home Affairs Minister Okuda, you have mentioned that there are 3,300 local self-governing bodies. Many of them—I do not know whether all of them do so or not—have imposed additional stricter regulations on the LSL. In this connection, I think that the Home Affairs Ministry is also closely connected with the issue. What is your view?

[Okuda] Well, if we do not take some measures, we cannot help our people enjoy a genuinely affluent livelstyle. When this law is taken into consideration from the viewpoint of the consumers, we notice many unreasonable points, including the resulting gap in prices. Of course, we also have to take into account the so-called medium-sized and small stores under the local self-governing bodies. The true nature of those self-governing bodies seems to lie in seeking the greatest well-being for local residents. However, I feel that it is no good to persist in a system that nobody in the world accepts now. I think it is also true with the land price problem if it should reach the same point. My feeling is that we should not insist merely on our egotism, but take measures to deal with those issues that have not been resolved when viewed from a global perspective.

[Okamoto] Agricultural, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Yamamoto, on a recent occasion, the U.S. side, in submitting various ideas or demands, pointed out that the land price in Japan is too high. In particular, it demands that the tax imposed on farmland in metropolitan areas be at the same rate as that imposed on land used for housing. The U.S. side has made such a demand. As minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, what are your thoughts?

[Yamamoto] In fact, that problem does not fall under my jurisdiction. However, we are also greatly concerned with the issue on imposing the same tax rate on farmland as on land for housing. In any case, the trend is now moving toward enforcing this plan in the 23 wards in Tokyo by the year 1992.

[Okamoto] You mean, in the Tokyo area.

[Yamamoto] Yes, that's right—within the 23 wards in Tokyo. We have already received such a report. Because Tokyo is the area taken as a symbol of high land price, we are willing to consider the plan.

[Okamoto] Finance Minister Hashimoto, maybe I am asking you only about those serious problems that the U.S. side has brought up. You mentioned that there are both gems and stones in the U.S. ideas. For instance, it is said that the current rate of funds invested in public works to the GNP stands at approximately 6.7 percent. Am I right? The U.S. side has demanded that this rate should be increased to about 10 percent in a few years. And I am asking you this question based on the U.S. idea. What do the Japanese financial authorities think of this point?

[Hashimoto] If they should hold that this figure, 10 percent, is sacred and inviolable, then we would have to give our answer in the negative. This is because while keeping watch on the overall trend in the Japanese economy, we, the financial authorities, will always be ready to provide funds whenever readjustment through finance is regarded as necessary. In this connection, if the 10 percent rate against the GNP should be set as the limit for the investment in public works, then the financial authorities cannot take any actions when we are confronted with a need for readjusting business in following the economic trend. And since this issue also concerns Japan's sovereign rights, we cannot accept this idea if it is stated in such a way.

[Okamoto] Yes, indeed.

[Hashimoto] However, since we certainly need to consider this issue from the viewpoint of improving the standards of our livelihood, I feel that as a result of our own efforts, we will have chances to make concessions and hold consultations on various issues.

[Okamoto] Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto, there are strategic problems among the issues brought up by the U.S. side at the recent SII talks. However, from the Japanese consumers' viewpoint, there are also issues that are in line with their interests. For instance, there are such issues as disparity between the Japanese and international prices, the issue on the LSL, and the issue on taxation for farmland in the city area. There are certainly such issues. However, these demands will cause considerable pain to some business circles concerned.

As Mr. Okuda has just mentioned, and despite the election pledges, those issues that may cause pain will have to be brought up to the surface in a month and before the interim report scheduled for April. What is your view on this point?

[Sakamoto] Well. When the prime minister visits the United States, he will have talks with the President from a broad viewpoint. Meanwhile, I think he will be able to realize that various concrete issues are being tackled with great enthusiasm now.

[Okamoto] Do you mean that we can have expectations for settling concrete problems at the summit talks scheduled at Palm Springs?

[Sakamoto] No. We have to wait till the talks are concluded. [Okamoto laughs] Talks should be held in a friendly atmosphere. I am sure that concrete issues will be hinted at, should I say, or brought up at the talks. The prime minister should be able to grasp their intentions with his first-rate intuitions.

[Okamoto] Foreign Minister Nakayama, you are scheduled to accompany the prime minister to Palm Springs. We are not sure what will be brought up at the talks. However, we are concerned that no results will come out of the SII talks, and we feel that it will be unwise if the situation should become awkward prior to the primary election in the United States. How about your confidence?

[Nakayama] Well. In reviewing the long history of the relations between Japan and the United States in the postwar years, you will notice that there have been different periods. Once, we were asked to buy cigarettes although we were importing leaf tabacco then. We have experienced various problems. However, we have settled them through consultations between Japan and the

United States. I believe that as friendly nations cherishing trust in each other, our two nations should speak to each other frankly, and then problems can be settled through mutual efforts.

[Okamoto] Concerning the mutual efforts, we have had various pending problems in the history of 45 postwar years. And maybe it is my prejudice, it seems that in most cases, they have had their way. Isn't that true? [Hashimoto and other ministers seen laughing] Yes, Mr. Hashimoto, please.

[Hashimoto] I am sorry to interrupt. But I feel that it is rather sad to notice that even Mr. Okamoto would make such remarks as they have had their way or this may be prejudice.

I don't think it is proper for the Japanese side to always have the victim-complex [higaisha ishiki] at the SII talks. For example, the Japanese side pointed out at the recent SII talks that the U.S. Government seems to have too many civil service workers. Japan first sets up a target of cutting a certain percent of government employees in its administrative reform, and then assigns a certain number of employees to various necessary positions. Noting this as an interesting idea, the U.S. side takes the idea back with them. They feel that even if a good idea originates on the opposite side, it should be adopted.

The reason why I said that we should pick out gems from among the stones is that no issues can be settled if the Japanese side should always starts the talks with the victim-complex. The SII and other talks are of benefit to both sides. And this can be said in reference to the correction of dispartiy of prices between Japan and other countries. I hope you will look at the talks from this viewpoint, and I request that you will cooperate with us in creating a public opinion in this regard.

[Okamoto] I understand what the finance minister has just said. However, I asked these questions because I had strong impressions during the recent talks on such issues as the import of beef and oranges, and the FSX issue in the defense field.

[Muto, interrupting] Let me explain further what has just been mentioned....

[Okamoto] Yes, Mr. Muto, please.

[Muto] For example, let us talk about the issue on business with affiliated enterprises. They have repeatedly expressed their intention to join in this affiliation system. American salesmen are here in Japan to sell their products. But when I listened to their talks with staff members of Japanese trading firms, I found that they were speaking English. When Japanese salesmen want to sell Japanese products, they usually use the consumers' languages. I think that the United States should make such efforts.

The issue on the Antimonopoly Law was just mentioned. Rather than pointing out such issues, they should try to improve their language ability so that business transactions can be carried out in a smoother way. As for the car import issue, the United States should note that if they bring big cars to Japan, not many people will buy them. After all, the United States should make efforts to develop products that conform to Japan's needs. I think this issue is a little bit different from the issue on Japan's system of affiliated enterprises. We should also point out that the United States needs to make more efforts in market research.

[Okamoto, interrupting] Yes, Foreign Minister Nakayama. Please go ahead.

[Nakayama] People seem to have a strong impression that the opposite side has talked a lot. However, it should be noted that the Japanese side has also pointed out a lot. Why is the United States neglecting its enormous financial deficit? It will be necessary to properly carry out balanced finance. We have pointed out this idea in strong terms. Moreover, we also pointed out the poor quality in its labor force, and demanded that workers should receive retraining. As for management, we suggested that they should not do business merely from the short-term profit viewpoint but run their companies from a long-term perspective. We have made these suggestions in strict terms, you know.

[Okamoto, laughing] Yes, I have been informed of this. [Laughter among Hashimoto, other ministers also heard] Well, I just wanted to point out that these issues will bring hardship to individual business circles concerned.

Agricultural, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Yamamoto, this question does not concern the bilateral problems between Japan and the United States. However, in reviewing campaign pledges of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and other parties during the election, I noticed that all the parties agree to insisting on the policy of complete self-supply or of importing no grains at all in dealing with the rice issue at the Uruguay Round. The final conclusion will probably be worked out before the end of this year. I feel a little concerned whether or not Japan will be able to persuade participants in the Uruguary Round to understand Japan's position, that Japan does not need even the so-called minimum access of 300,000 to 400,000 tons of rice. What do you think of this issue?

[Yamamoto] This is one of the most serious problems that the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries will have to tackle. And concerning this issue, I feel that we will have to persist in our persuasion. As the finance minister has just pointed out adequately, we will not be able to succeed in talks on bilateral issues if we have the victim-complex.

I do not have any victim-complex at all. However, setting aside the fact that Japan's rice issue has been pointed out as a symbolic problem by the United States and other nations, there are also a considerable number of our people who have pointed out this issue. I say that agriculture is the foundation of a nation because rice

constitutes the basis for a nation. And in talking about this issue, we have have to go back to the root of the Japanese. It is the flesh and blood of the Japanese. We should take these facts into consideration, and we should not talk about the issue with an emotional bias. We have already turned 30 percent of freshly green rice paddies into fallow farmland through readjustment. And this certainly has inflicted desperate pains on farmers. Furthermore, the consumption has not increased, and there is still a gap in self-supply. [passage omitted]

Further deliberations on the rice issue should be held in Japan. This issue does not concern the LDP or other parties alone. I served as chairman of the party's Diet Policy Committee until recently. Both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors have adopted a resolution on the issue based on a consensus of the ruling and opposition parties. In this connection, it should be noted that public opinion is concerned with the rice or grain issues of Japan.

It seems that Japan has been criticized for insisting on adhering to its position on the issue, and there are people who hold that Japan should make concessions at some point. I think this is wrong, and we must make desperate efforts to adhere to our basic principle. And this issue does not concern the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries alone. It is an issue that involves the whole government. And I think it is an issue that has to do with all of Japan.

[Okamoto] Mr. Muto, MITI minister, the former MITI minister once remarked on not importing even one grain of rice. Let us put aside his remarks for now. As Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries Minister Yamamoto has just pointed out in his remarks, in case Japan should insist on the principle of self-sufficiency or of not importing any grain of rice, Japan would be asked to take some compensatory measures at the Uruguay Round. And I think that Japan would probably be asked to make concessions on the issue concerning industrial products. I feel that maybe we will be asked to make such a promise. What do you think of these points?

[Muto] Well, I feel that as far as our strategy toward this year is concerned, we will have to think about measures to deal with the United States and with other agricultural products exporting nations as well. Japan may be the nation that has the most serious victim-complex. Although their position or problems are different from ours, various European nations have also been disputing with the United States. In this connection, we should think of some strategy to deal with the agricultural products as a whole. And in cooperation with the EC member nations—in this case, we will need the assistance of the foreign minister. While promoting closer cooperation with the EC member nations to stand up to the United States and other nations, I feel that we should take other factors into consideration and maybe we will come up with better measures.

[Okamoto] Do you mean that the rice issue should be regarded as part of the issue on agricultural products?

[Muto] That's right. It should be taken up as part of the issue on agricultural products as a whole and the rice issue should not taken up as an individual issue.

[Okamoto] Concerning our relations with the United States, there are other major issues, including the one on Super Article 301 of the Comprehensive Trade Act. I have a question for Defense Agency Director General Ishikawa.

Last week, U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney came to Japan for a visit, and he met with several officials, including the prime minister. There are such issues as the one concerning reducing part of the U.S. forces stationed in the Far East, including Japan, the ROK, and the Philippines. In the case of Japan, it has been reported that the United States has demanded an increase of Japan's share of expenses for the U.S. forces stationed in Japan. Director General Ishikawa of the Defense Agency, what do you think of these issues?

[Ishikawa] They are in fact being implemented already. Japan is paying about 75 percent of the allowances for employees of the U.S. Forces now, and this will be increased to 100 percent next year. But there have been requests to increase the burdens further. They have these expectations of us from the viewpoint of the defense needs for Japan and the United States. This is not a matter of whether we are required or not required to do it under law, but this comes from financial reasons. They are expecting us to do something because Japan has become an economic power. My basic thinking, consequently, is that we should give consideration to this matter in a forward-looking manner. They have not indicated what scale the increased burdens should be, and hence we have not studied the matter. But I think this matter will be raised sooner or later.

[Okamoto] Mr Defense Agency Director General, the foreign minister earlier talked about the great changes in the international situation, extending from the alleviation of tensions in U.S.- Soviet relations to arms reductions. In fact the Soviet Union is cutting defense spending, and the United States is doing the same and bringing about the peace dividend. While this is happening—while the arms are being reduced in Europe and part of the troops are being removed from Asia—do we need the next term defense buildup plan beginning in 1991? Even though there may be a considerable gap in the military power between the Soviet Union and Japan, now do we really need it? I feel Japan, too, should think about peace dividends. What is your view on this?

[Ishikawa] Naturally, defense policies follow the international situation. But the problem is in what way the waves of the prodemocracy movement in Europe are impacting on Asia. We have to watch this. Geopolitically, politically, and economically, Asia is different. Besides, there are the problems of China and the Korean peninsula as well as the murky situation of Cambodia.

There are these existing problems. Furthermore, even though the Soviet Union is taking actions on reducing troops in the Far East, if we take into consideration the arms accumulated since the 1960s and the modernization done on them, there are reasons why we cannot be off guard. In preparing the Third Term Defense Buildup Plan, the Defense Agency, which is the drafting office of the plan, and the government will collect all information necessary and will have to take these facts into consideration. I am not saying that the larger the defense spending, the better. But I think we have to think about the special nature of the circumstances here.

[Okamoto] Foreign Minister Nakayama. Defense Agency Director General Ishikawa said that the tempo of detente being realized in Asia is behind that seen in Europe, and I agree with his view. But should we only stand by? There are views that Japan as a power in the Far East should take an initiative to help create conditions actively so that the alleviation in tensions and arms reduction are prompted. What do you think about these views, Foreign Minister?

[Nakayama] I agree with them. I visited Thailand on 2 January. An area in Asia where war is going on now is Cambodia. Surrounding it are China and the Soviet Union. France, which had colonized Cambodia, is also an interested party. So far we have said that if under a peace arrangement agreed upon among the four factions of Cambodia, a provisional government is installed and a democratic election is held under the U.N. supervision, then Japan can provide material and economic assistance for economic restoration under the democratic government. In other words, we have thought about what to do after an election is held. But I think Japan should make efforts to bring peace to Asia. For that reason, I sent Foreign Ministry personnel to Phnom Penh on a survey mission. More recently, I sent the director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau to Vietnam. This means that we are making new moves. Foreign ministers of the ASEAN member nations met with leaders of the four Combodian factions in Indonesia to discuss peace for Cambodia. My belief is that Japan's diplomacy should be devoted to doing its best for peace in Cambodia and dialogue with the surrounding powers. [passage omitted] [Ishikawa is seen raising his hand]

[Okamoto] Mr. Ishikawa, please, go ahead.

[Ishikawa] Hearing your question earlier, I got the impression that you might be thinking that a sudden detente is a gift from Santa Claus as far as the next mid-term defense buildup plan is concerned.

[Okamoto] No, what I asked was whether detente would not be taken into account in reviewing the plan.

[Ishikawa] I will speak about that point. The scale of the next mid-term defense plan is pursuant to the defense guideline, to be sure, but actually the modern arms are of improved quality, and costs to maintain them are considerable. We have to think about these things, and we have to do other things like improving quarters and welfare facilities for defense forces officers. We do need more money. Besides, to talk about the international situation, when the defense guideline was prepared in 1976, the world then was also in a period of detente. To take this fact into consideration, the situation now is not so different from then, and I do not agree with the thinking that the defense plan should be scaled down substantially in view of the present relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. I feel such a thinking is premature.

[Okamoto] The general guideline was prepared in 1976. I think it was in October of that year and the Miki cabinet was in power at that time. To compare the international situation of that time with the present situation, at least if we look at the ways the top leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union act, we can feel that detente this time is at more advanced state than it was in 1976. Hence what I asked Foreign Minister Nakayama earlier was that granted that detente has not arrived in Asia, can't Japan take an initiative and assume an active role in reducing tensions?

I would like to ask an additional question. Do you have any intention of revising the concept of the basic defense buildup plan outlined in the defense guideline of 1976? Or do you intend to maintain the concept?

[Ishikawa] Well, of course, I think we should maintain the concept.

[Okamoto] Ah, so, I see. Now, Home Affairs Minister Okuda. [passage omitted] [Okamoto continues] Foreign Minister Nakayama. Sorry we do not have much time left. General Secretary Gorbachev of the Soviet Union—he may be the president by then—is due to visit Japan next year. Expectations on his visit are great. All kinds of views are given on prospects of progress being made on the northern territories question. Some are not optimistic. What is your view on this issue?

[Nakayama] Even though the presidential system is not in force in the Soviet Union, glasnost is advancing in the country and the democratic movement is moving very fast. When I saw Mr. Yakovlev in November last year, he noted that there is public opinion in the Soviet Union just as there is public opinion in Japan. He pointed that leaders of both countries must have active exchanges. Doing so, both sides can further their mutual understanding. Then, with General Secretary Gorbachev—regardless of whether he may be the president by that time—arriving in Japan, the issues pending between Japan and the Soviet Union may be resolved. That is our hope. After all, there is no way to think of peace in Asia and the Pacific sans the Soviet Union and Japan. That is my belief. I will make efforts toward it.

[Okamoto] I would like to ask another brief question. It appears that President No Tae-u's visit to Japan is nearing. Regarding the status of the third-generation Korean residents in Japan, do you think a general agreement can be reached on it by then?

[Nakayama] Right now I have the director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau in Korea for working-level talks on various issues. We will consult with other ministries and offices concerned, and hold foreign ministers' talks when we come to the stage of finalizing the matter.

[Okamoto] Thank you very much for attending this discussion today despite your busy schedules.

North Korea

Ministry Statement Calls Fourth Tunnel 'Fake'

SK0603110090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1049 GMT 6 Mar 90

["'Fourth Tunnel' Incident Is a Fiction and Political Fraud, States Spokesman for DPRK Ministry of People's Armed Forces"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 6 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the Ministry of People's Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement today regarding the wholesale smear campaign launched by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets against the DPRK over the "fourth tunnel" incident, a new fictitious case.

Following is the gist of the statement:

On March 3 the South Korean puppets staged a drama of "counter shaft digging into the tunnel" in the presence of high-ranking officers of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces, the senior member of the U.S. forces side to the Military Armistice Commission and others, and let the puppet minister of national defence publish a "statement" to the press and have gone off into an unheard-of provocative anti-DPRK hysterics with the mobilization of the propaganda machine under their control, even traitor No Tae-u himself joining in it.

The "fourth tunnel" over which the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are raising such a hue and cry is a fake which has nothing to do with our Republic, like all the former "tunnels" and the "counter shaft digging into the tunnel" is nothing more nor less than a political drama entirely motivated by their insidious political end.

The DPRK Ministry of People's Armed Forces strongly denounces this "fourth tunnel" incident, branding it as one more anti-North smear campaign to divert elsewhere the attention of the people at home and abroad supporting our new peaceful reunification proposal and to justify their aggressive and separatist policy of confrontation and war.

Although the puppet Defence Ministry, manipulated by the U.S. imperialists, went through the motion of "verification" and "demonstration" in an effort to give authenticity to the so-called "fourth tunnel" they claim to have "discovered" this time, it failed to conceal the fact that it was a preposterous drama full of falsehood and contradictions.

Failing to indicate even the exact location of the "fourth tunnel," they said in an official report it is the "central and eastern front," whereas the puppet Defence Minister stated it is the "eastern front." Moreover, the puppet Defence Ministry announced that more than 50 home and foreign reporters watched the "counter shaft digging into tunnel" and the puppet defence minister put the number at 34, thus giving conflicting reports.

They also reported that many home and foreign reporters confirmed it on the spot. But they failed to show "their counter shaft digging into the tunnel" and the reporters covering it on the spot on the TV screen. They also failed to exhibit any of the "electric insulators," "sleepers" and "electric wires" which they said were found in the "North's tunnel."

Is there any "verification" or "proof" in this?

The puppet Defence Ministry, in a bid to present the "tunnel" as the North's, said that the letters "Choson Tongil" (Korean reunification) were painted in its wall. But it failed to show the letters. And, by alleging that the letters "Korean reunification," a phraseology not used by the people in the northern half of the country and the People's Army soldiers, were written on the wall, it proved more clearly that this is a fabrication.

If such words were written by our People's Army soldiers, they would have written "Choguk Tongil" (national reunification), instead of "Choson Tongil." The South Korean puppets' advertisement of it as an "evidence" offers a counterevidence that the "tunnel" is not the North's.

Noteworthy is it that the puppets claimed the newly discovered "tunnel" is large enough for an hourly passage of armed forces 30,000 strong and field artillery pieces. According to their drawing, however, the "tunnel" was excavated in the mid-slope of a high mountain. A tunnel excavated on a high mid-slope of a mountain is of no use as a "tunnel for surprise Southward invasion" by blitz tactics as claimed by them, though it may be useful for defence. If we had intended to make a "surprise invasion of the South" by letting tens of thousands of troops and field guns through the "tunnel," there should be a route of mobility linked to it. How could "a surprise invasion of the South" be made through the "tunnel" dug on the mid-slope of a steep mountain? Anyone with elementary military knowledge would easily understand this.

That the "fourth tunnel" is not our "tunnel for southward invasion" was proved in a report on March 4 that a search team of the puppet ground force could not go any farther in the "fourth tunnel" because there was water 40 centimetres deep and the "tunnel" was not excavated in the 70s, but in the 80s. It is utter nonsense that a "tunnel" with standing water can be used for a

"surprise invasion of the South." If it were a "tunnel" dug in the 80s by us for a stealthy "surprise invasion of the South," how could there be knee-deep water in it and how can the tunnel which was left uncared for till water has gathered knee-deep be of practical value as "a tunnel designed for a surprise invasion of the South"?

No matter how hard one may try to distort and reverse truth, it is bound to be brought to light.

If there is the "fourth tunnel" as claimed by the South Korean puppets, it must be a tunnel dug by the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets themselves to invade the North like the first, second, third "tunnels."

What do we have to do with the tunnel which is claimed to have been "discovered" by a "joint detecting team" of the U.S. forces and the puppet army in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] where the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean puppets are on strict guard, having built even a concrete wall?

According to the announcement of the South Korean puppets, they had carried out an intensive detection in the area from 1978 and made a counter shaft digging from December last year "with the mobilisation of a colossal number of people and highly efficient excavators," judging from the picture of a sleeper taken by an endoscope of a drilling machine that there was a "tunnel" dug by the North. If this is true, the sleeper caught in the endoscope might be a sleeper of a mine pit of the days of the Japanese imperialist rule or a subterranean position excavated during the last war. On what ground did they conclude that it was a sleeper of the "fourth tunnel of the North" and started instantly the counter shaft digging with such massive mobilization of people and equipment at a time?

This tells us that the puppets faked up the "fourth tunnel" incident as a stopgap measure when their secret excavation of the tunnel for northward invasion leaked through the South Korean press.

Judging from all these facts, we can see that the South Korean puppets are playing a drama to shift the blame for the underground tunnel on to us, lacking the courage to do so with the wall on the ground, finding it impossible to conceal any more the fact that they, at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, had built the concrete wall, a symbol of confrontation and division, on the ground and dug tunnels underground for attacking us from the middle of the '70s.

It is hardly a matter for argument that we, who have no intention to invade the South and are not prepared for that, but make consistent efforts for peace on the Korean peninsula and the peaceful reunification of Korea, could never dig "a tunnel for southward invasion." It is clear why the South Korean puppets suddenly launched a noisy anti-DPRK campaign, letting the puppet defence minister cry over "the fourth tunnel" like a thief crying "stop thief!"

As everyone knows, our new epochal proposal for peaceful reunification to pull down the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line and ensure free travel and complete opening between the North and the South in order to make the 1990s a decade of national reunification has evoked active support and sympathy from the entire fellow countrymen and the world peaceloving people.

Pushed into a position of passive defensive by this reasonable peaceful reunification proposal, the South Korean puppets have carried confrontation and tensions between the North and the South into the extremes by staging the aggressive "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises in league with outside forces, only to evoke bitterer denunciation at home and abroad.

Now they find themselves in a tough spot where they can hardly gloss over the matter any more with the monosyllabic claim that there is "no" wall in face of our strong demand and the unanimous demand of the people at home and abroad that the concrete wall be torn down.

On the other hand, they sought to bridge over the crisis of the colonial military fascist rule with "political restructuring" through "the merger of three parties" according to a script of the United States only to increase the political crisis and social unrest in South Korea. And, by begging for the permanent presence of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces, contrary to the trend of the present times toward independence, they made themselves a target of protest and accusation by the South Korean people and the world people who demand the U.S. troop pullout.

Under such a situation the South Korean puppets are attempting to keep off the influence of our new proposal for peaceful reunification, justify their policy of confrontation and war, fascism and division and, furthermore, invent a pretext to keep the U.S. troops and intensify the military fascist dictatorial rule by faking up a shocking incident.

But they cannot solve any problem with such clumsy drama but will only end in precipitating their own destruction.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets themselves made public this time that they had freely done boring in the Demilitarized Zone and made a counter shaft digging there under the pretext of "detecting tunnels of the North." This is obviously a crude violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement and a very grave provocative act of aggression.

Moreover, the puppets openly declared this time that they would commit such acts on a larger scale along the entire length of the Military Demarcation Line in the future. This is a declaration that they would openly dig tunnels for invading the North under the gound of the DMZ along the MDL. We cannot tolerate this and cannot but take a serious view of this, regarding this as a very grave case of provocation.

Now the provocative moves of aggression on the part of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have entered a very adventurous stage and the consequences therefrom are assuming an unforeseeable dangerous phase.

Such being the situation, we can never remain an onlooker to the developments.

The responsibility for the obtaining situation entirely rests with the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and, accordingly, the only way of defusing the tensions created on the MDL is for them to promptly stop the provocative anti-DPRK smear campaign groundlessly provoking the North.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets must frankly admit that the "fourth tunnel" made public by them this time, like all the previous "tunnels," is a tunnel for invading the North which they had themselves dug, and apologise to our nation, immediately stop tunnel digging and give assurances that they will never commit such provocative acts of aggression again.

If they continue committing the brazen smear campaign against the North, failing to accept this just demand of ours, they will be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising from this.

The U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets must immediately retract the anti-DPRK intrigue called "tunnel incident," stop the aggressive and criminal "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises without delay and unconditionally withdraw the U.S. troops and all the aggression forces including nuclear weapons from South Korea.

We will sharply watch the provocative acts of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets with high revolutionary vigilance.

China's Jiang Zemin To Pay Visit in March

SK0603103590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1031 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 6 (KCNA)—Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, will pay an official goodwill visit to Korea in mid-March 1990 upon the invitation of Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Kim Il-song Receives Italian Guests 28 Feb

SK2802230790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1535 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song received today Luigi Fiore, son of Chief of the Bureau of the Italian Radio and TV for Far East in Beijing Ilario Fiore, and his party on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the External Economy Commission Kim Tal-hyon and Vice-Chairman of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries Yi Chol-sin.

President Kim Il-song had a cordial conversation with the guests.

The guests presented a gift to him.

President Kim Il-song entertained them to a luncheon.

Italian Senator Arrives in Pyongyang 24 Feb

SK2402154690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 24 (KCNA)—Giulio Orland, member of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, chief of the the Christian Democratic group of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Senate and President of the Italian Institute for Asia, arrived here today.

He was met at the airport by Yi Sok-nok, director of the International Affairs Institute.

Pyongyang Commemorates Popular Uprising 1 Mar

SK2802230990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1525 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—A meeting commemorating the 71st anniversary of the March 1 popular uprising was held here today.

The uprising in 1919 was an all-people anti-Japanese resistance of the Korean people to take back the motherland from the Japanese imperialists and establish the sovereignty of the nation.

More than 2 million people of all walks of life participated in the uprising against the unheard-of military rule of the Japanese imperialist aggressors and more than 3,200 cases of anti-Japanese demonstrations and uprisings were held till the end of that year.

Yu Ho-chun, director of the secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, in his report stressed that through the March 1 popular uprising, the Korean people demonstrated at home and abroad their unshakable patriotic will and indomitable spirit to defend the dignity of the nation and achieve the independence of the country, dealt a heavy blow at the Japanese imperialist brutal colonial rule and greatly inspired the national liberation struggle of the oppressed colonial nations.

The reporter said that though a long period of 71 years has passed since the March 1 uprisers shed blood of patriotism, our nation's desire for independence and sovereignty has not yet been realised in South Korea, a half of the country.

The U.S. imperialists, he said, urged by the foolish dream of executing their anti-socialist strategy, are now

becoming more frenzied in their bid to take hold of the Korean peninsula by binding up the South Korean puppets with the Japanese reactionaries and manipulating them.

In order to remove the obstacles and difficulties lying in the way of national reunification and bring about a radical turn in solving the reunification question, this cause must be turned into a nationwide cause in reality as well as in name, the reporter said.

Recalling that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address put forward a new epochal peaceful reunification proposal for a fundamental turn in resolving the reunification question, representing the desire and will of the entire fellow countrymen for reunification, the reporter went on:

In order to solve the reunification question of the country by the internal force of the nation, it is imperative to break the state of tight closure between the North and the South, remove confrontation and achieve national reconciliation and unity.

The United States and the South Korean authorities must stop the aggressive "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises at once, accept our proposal for convening a North-South top-level conference in which the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties will take part, pull down the concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line and proceed toward realising free travel and complete opening between the North and the South.

The U.S. imperialists must no longer encourage the South Korean puppets to fascism and confrontation, war and splittist moves but get out of South Korea immediately, taking along all their aggressive armed forces including nuclear weapons.

The Japanese reactionaries must discard the foolish scheme to stage a comeback to South Korea and realise the old dream of "the greater East Asia coprosperity sphere" by joining in the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression and give up at once their acts of damaging peace in Korea and obstructing her peaceful reunification.

Battle Sites Built Up at Mt Paektu Secret Camp

SK0103101690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 1 (KCNA)—Revolutionary battle sites centring on Mt. Paektu, the holy mountain of the revolution in Yanggang Province, situated in the northern area of Korea, are being built up better.

The Mt. Paektu secret camp was built up in the recent three years as it had been and opened to the public. 10 secret camps were found in its surroundings and three secret bases were built up to the status quo ante in Kim Hyong-chik, Paekam and Pungsan counties [as received].

"General star rises over Mt. Paektu. General star of Mt. Paektu shines all over the three thousand-ri land" and 400 other slogans and tent remains and 1,000 other revolutionary relics and remains have been preserved and exhibited in Kim Chong-suk and Pochon counties and other places of the province.

Monuments and markers to revolutionary activities have been erected in the Mt. Paektu secret camp, on Chunghung hillside, at the foot of Kwoegung Pavilion and other places.

Roads linking the Mt. Paektu secret camp to the newly discovered secret camps in its surroundings are being constructed at a fast speed, thus forming large loop roads for excursion in the area and a cable car from the Paektu Bridge up to the peak of Mt. Paektu and a rope-ladder from the peak down to the Lake Chon have been built.

Chongbong Excursion Camp with an accommodation of 400-500 guests, Mudubong Student Hotel, Mudubong Hotel and other establishments have been built and the existing excursion camps reconstructed on an expansion basis so as to accomodate more than 6,000 visitors a day to the revolutionary battle sites around Mt. Paektu.

Since the excursion roads to the revolutionary battle sites around Mt. Paektu opened to traffic in June 1956, bronze statues, grand monuments and 320 other monuments to the revolutionary activities, 8 revolutionary museums and revolutionary history museums have been built in the Lake Samji, Pochonbo, Chongbong, Taehongdan, Popyong and other places associated with the glorious revolutionary history of the great leader President Kim Il-song. Now the excursion roads extend 800 kilometres.

KCNA Summarizes Confederal Republic Proposal

SK0103104290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 1 (KCNA)—The Korean people are waging a powerful struggle to reunify the country by realising the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo (DCRK) with the extensive encouragement and support of the progressive people worldwide.

At the historical Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held on October 10, 1980, the great leader President Kim Il-song put forward a new proposal for reunifying the country by means of founding the DCRK.

President Kim Il-song said:

"Our party holds that the country should be reunified by founding a confederal republic through the establishment of a unified national government on condition that the North and the South recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems, a government in which the two sides are represented on an equal footing and under which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties."

He advanced the proposal to found a unified state of confederal form, taking into consideration the specific conditions of our country where the homogeneous nation with a long history is temporarily divided into two by foreign imperialists and there exist different ideas and systems in the North and the South.

In the unified state of confederal style a supreme national confederal assembly should be formed with an equal number of representatives from the North and the South and an appropriate number of representatives of overseas nationals and a confederal standing committee be installed there to guide the regional governments in the North and the South and to administer all affairs of the confederal state.

The supreme national confederal assembly and the confederal standing committee, its permanent body, as the unified government of the confederal state, should discuss and decide on political affairs, national defence problems, foreign affairs and other questions of common concern related to the interests of the country and the nation as a whole on a fair principle and should push forward the work for a uniform development of the country and the nation and achieve unity and collaboration between the North and the South in all spheres.

Under the leadership of the confederal government, the regional governments in the North and the South should follow an independent policy within the limits consistent with the fundamental interests and demands of the whole nation and strive to narrow down the differences between the North and the South in all spheres and achieve a uniform development of the country and the nation.

The confederal republic is to be given the name of "Koryo," the unified state of our country in 918-1392 that was well known to the world.

The DCRK should be a neutral nation which would not join any political and military alliance or bloc.

The proposal for founding the DCRK is a most fair one for reunification which is acceptable both to the North and the South and can be a basis of a nationwide agreement.

It is a most fair and aboveboard reunification proposal, above all, because it represents the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity which had been agreed upon between the North and the South.

Our country should be reunified independently by the efforts of the Korean people themselves without any outside interferences, peacefully through contact and dialogue and by means of achieving great national unity, transcending difference in ideology and system. These demands of the three principles of national reunification are reflected in the proposal.

It is a most fair and aboveboard proposal next because it represents the common demands of the nation and the interests of both the North and the South.

It solves the problem of the form and the name of the unified state so well that all the people in the North and the South with different ideas and political views can respond to and accept it.

And it solves in a reasonable way all the problems arising in the formation and management of a confederal state body in keeping with the fundamental interests and the desire of the whole nation.

The proposal for founding the DCRK is, indeed, a milestone which indicates a new road of reunification to the entire Korean people.

International Group Issues Bulletin on Korea

SK2602220690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—The International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea (CILECO) published a special issue of bulletin on February 19.

It carries an article entitled "The Time Has Come To Open Decisive Phase on the Road to Korea's Reunification" which deals with the circumstances of the convocation of the emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the CILECO which was held in Paris on February 10, its significance and the detailed contents of the matters discussed at the meeting.

It also carries full texts of the appeal to the governments, parliaments, political parties, public organizations of all countries of the world and international organizations and resolutions which were adopted at the meeting.

Kim Il-song's Reunification Plan Supported

Endorsed by Foreign Ministers

SK2802050090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—K.I. Gujral, minister for external affairs of the Republic of India, in a solidarity message to Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam said that he received with keen interest the detailed content of the national reunification proposal put forward by President Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

He expressed support to bilateral negotiation between the North and the South for the relaxation of tensions on the Korean peninsula and national reunification.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Central African Republic, Michel Gbezera-Bria, in a solidarity message to the Korean foreign

minister pointed out that he paid a great attention to the new proposal for Korea's reunification advanced by President Kim Il-song.

The government of the Central African Republic, he noted, is satisfied with the overture.

The Burundi minister of external relations and cooperation, when he was meeting with the Korean ambassador to Burundi, voiced invariable support of the government and people of Burundi for the new proposal for national reunification and extended solidarity to the Korean people in their struggle for the peaceful reunification of the country.

Backed by Afghan Committee

SK0103051090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 1 (KCNA)—A solidarity message came to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The message dated February 20 expresses support to the new proposal for national reunification advanced by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, to remove the concrete wall keeping Korea divided into the North and the South.

It also supports Korean reunification and denounces the aggressive policy of the enemy against the DPRK.

It expresses the hope that the relations existing between the parties and peoples of the two countries will further expand and develop.

No Tae-u's Anniversary Speech Denounced

SK0503120090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0020 GMT 4 Mar 90

[NODONG SINMUN 4 March commentary: "Brazen-Faced Prayer by a Pro-U.S., Pro-Japanese Running Dog and an Anti-Reunification Element"]

[Text] The South Korean puppet clique held a so-called celebration meeting marking the anniversary of the 1 March movement in Seoul on 1 March. Holding a government-sponsored meeting on the pretext of celebrating the anniversary of the 1 March movement in South Korea, a U.S. colony completely under the military occupation of the U.S. imperialists and a stage dominated by the Japanese aggressive forces, is in itself a comedy.

What is more ridiculous is that the traitor No Tae-u, a pro-U.S. and pro-Japanese running dog who is selling out the interests of the country and people to the U.S. and Japanese aggressors, delivered a so-called speech on the anniversary of the 1 March movement without feeling so much as shame. Simply put, his speech on the anniversary was full of crafty monologue designed to justify the U.S. policy of colonizing and enslaving South Korea and the fascist military rule there, to beautify the fascist colonial society in South Korea, and to camouflage his treacherous and splittist nature.

In his speech, No Tae-u, after babbling about the ancestors' outcry for national self-determination, independence, and sovereignty, tried to paint South Korea as if it were an independent country established only after the realization of such an outcry. Also, he, of all people, mentioned such things as democratic development or rapid progress. No Tae-u then boisterously prattled as if he had brought about something like prosperity. This is a complete reversal of the facts, a fabrication of reality, and a ridiculous farce designed for deception.

It is everybody's knowledge that traitor No Tae-u is a thoroughly pro-U.S. and pro-Japanese running dog. He is not content with his unquestioned execution of the U.S. imperialists' policy of colonizing and enslaving, a policy of aggression and war. He not only scurries for favor with the Japanese reactionary forces but also intensifies collusion with them, while honoring the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries as protectors and saviors.

The fascist No Tae-u regime is a scarecrow regime controlled by the United States and, within its own hands, it holds no real power. It is none other than the U.S. imperialist aggressors that exercise the prerogative of supreme military command in South Korea and have its economic lifeline at their beck and call. It is also none other than the United States that presides over the puppet regime's domestic and foreign policies and supervises and controls their execution.

No Tae-u is a filthy running dog that not only assumes pro-U.S. toadyism and the idea of depending on the United States and Japan as his code of faith, but also prolongs his political life thanks to the prop provided by his masters. That he should dare mention the ancestors' national self-determination and spirit of independence is in itself an intolerable mockery of the patriotic martyrs. It is an unforgivable challenge to our national honor and dignity.

Moreover, democracy is not developing in South Korea, but only the fascist military dictatorship rages there. The realignment of the political structure based on the antidemocratic and the antinational merger of the three parties—an undertaking that was carried out against historical trends at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists—has brought a new darker, fascist era more grave than Yusin and the dictatorship under the Fifth Republic to South Korea. As a result, the people's national dignity and independence are being trampled underfoot more than ever, the economy is on a march toward calamities, and all kinds of social ills are so rampant that the people are sinking deeply into fear, terror, and hardship of livelihood.

Even if he has the gift of gab, traitor No Tae-u can never sweep under the carpet the dark realities in South Korea generated by his treacherous acts, let alone his own filthy nature as a colonial running dog.

In his speech, traitor No Tae-u tried to sell a theory of an open society in a bid to cloak the liberal democratic system propped up by bayonet in disguise and then mouthed something like visits, exchange, and a summit meeting in what he called a proposal to the North, unusual given that it was contained in a speech delivered on the anniversary of the 1 March movement.

It is widely known to the world that at the outset of the first year of the nineties, we put forward an epochal proposal for reunification, calling for the wall of division to be brought down and for free travel and complete opening to be realized between the North and South, and toward this end, we called for holding a North-South top-level conference in which the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties would take part.

No Tae-u should have responded to this proposal, as a matter of course, before talking about North-South relations. No Tae-u, however, pretended that he welcomed the opening of a wall of division in some other country, saying that the fellow countrymen in the North and South have no reason why they cannot bring down the wall of division, travel freely between the North and South, and build a national community. Nevertheless, instead of expressing his willingness to destroy the concrete wall built in the areas south of the Military Demarcation Line, No Tae-u avoided mentioning it because he feared even talking about it.

In fact, there is no way of interpreting this as anything other than an expression of his intent to keep the current state of isolation between the North and South and national division in place.

The concrete wall that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets have built in the middle of the Korean peninsula from east to west—a wall of division that bisects the national territory and severs the national blood vessel—is a symbol of division and confrontation and a wall of steel that is more than a border line.

Without pulling it down, it is impossible to realize free travel or complete opening. If No Tae-u has the least intention of realizing free travel and complete opening between the North and South, he should make plain his willingness to pull down the concrete wall before anything else. Apart from this, the people will not believe his words on free travel or openness.

As for the summit meeting mentioned by No Tae-u, we are paying attention to the top-level talks between the two sides of the North and South and expect the participation of the highest authorities in the consultative conference that we have proposed. As explained in the letter adopted at the joint meeting of the representatives of our Republic's government and the political parties, if and when the North-South top-level conference, in which the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties will take part, is held, within its framework a talk between the highest authorities can also be arranged separately.

The South Korean ruling clique that has taken into custody and punished the reunification envoys who visited the northern half of the Republic in search of reunification, the clique that has exacerbated tension by staging together with the United States a large-scale joint military exercise against us, that has brought the various channels of North-South dialogue to a halt all at once, and that has ignored our reasonable proposal for negotiations, without being able to abolish the anticommunist national policy and the National Security Law, the stumbling block to reunification, this clique has the nerve to speak of reunification, exchange, or talks.

What the traitor No Tae-u talked about in his speech is nothing but a poor excuse to avoid accepting our new proposal for reunification according to a scenario provided by his U.S. imperialist masters.

With nothing can traitor No Tae-u cover up his antipopular and antinational nature and criminal acts he has committed before history and people.

If he continues to pursue a policy of depending on foreign countries and clings to fascism, division, and war, while paying lip service to such deceptive words as national self-determination, democratic development, exchange, or reunification, he will never be able to avoid being brought before the judgment of history.

Eyewitnesses Cited on Concrete Wall in South

SK2802230590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 28 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in his New Year address put forward a new epochal national reunification proposal for tearing down the barrier between the North and the South and realising free travel and complete opening between them.

If this proposal is to be put into practice, the concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) must be torn down, first of all.

The great leader President Kim Il-song has said:

"First of all, the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line must be pulled down."

In the zone south of the MDL there stretches the concrete wall 5-8 metres in height, 3-7 metres wide in the upper part and 10-19 metres wide at the bottom, which was built by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique. It stands not only in the plain area but also in the mountainous areas inaccessible to tanks or armoured cars.

Yet, the South Korean puppet clique insists that there is no concrete wall.

Interviewed by the reporters, South Korean defectors who had directly participated in its construction or saw it while serving the puppet army testified that the assertion of the South Korean puppet clique is a whopping lie.

Sok Chong-hyon, officer of the Korean People's Army, had this to say:

When serving as the 1st platoon leader of the 1st Battalion of the 15th Regiment of the 1st Division of the puppet army, I had taken part in the building of the concrete wall. So, I am better acquainted with the whole process of the project than anyone else.

My division undertook the project of a 10-kilometre section near Panmunjom.

Soldiers had to climb steep mountains with heavy cement mixtures on their backs.

One day in June 1978, the concrete wall collapsed in a 30-metre section, killing 70 soldiers. Such tragedy was quite uncommon during the construction of the concrete wall.

This is why the South Korean people call the wall "a wall of grievances" and a "wall dyed with blood."

Yi Sang-yol who was once a PFC of the Rifle Platoon of the 3rd Company of the 1st Battalion of the 7th Regiment of the 6th Division of the puppet army said:

During my boot training, I went to see the concrete wall in Woljong Ri, Cholwon county, South Korean Kangwon Province. At that time, the instructor blared that the people North of the wall are of the same blood with them but a heterogeneous nation who can not live together with them.

This tells that the concrete wall is a barrier of national division.

Mun Sang-chol, who had patrolled between the concrete wall and the MDL as a corporal of the 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, 1st Company, the search battalion, 28th Division of the puppet army, stated:

In Yonchon county, Kyonggi Province, there is a "monument to the wall" which was erected by my division to "commemorate" the day of finishing the wall project of its section.

Chong Kyu-chin, who was director of the Hwanam Chemical Company, Ltd. in South Korea, pointed out:

I was surprised to see the wall. I had never imagined that such huge artificial wall would appear before me. There were observation posts of the puppet army at the intervals of some 10 metres along the wall and heavy machine guns on the upper part of the wall at the intervals of 50 to 60 metres, all levelled at the North.

The above-said testimonies of the eyewitnesses prove that there is the concrete wall in South Korea.

The point is to objectively prove that there exists the wall since the South Korean authorities deny the existence of the concrete wall itself.

The emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea held in Paris some time ago decided to dispatch international fact-finding teams to both sides to verify the existence of the concrete wall built South of the MDL of Korea.

The DPRK also proposed to the South side to organise inspection to confirm the existence of the wall at first hand.

Demonstrations Held To Protest 'Team Spirit'

SK0603051090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 6 (KCNA)—Mass meetings took place in South Hamgyong Province and Nampo Municipality on March 5 to denounce the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

The speakers at the meetings were unanimous in warning that if the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the No Tae-u puppets ignite a war while staging the "Team Spirit 90" joint military maneuvers, they will sustain a more miserable defeat than in the 50s.

They said the "Team Spirit 90" of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is not a "defensive" war game but a preliminary war and a test nuclear war to deal a preemptive strike at us when the opportunity presents itself.

It is natural that we adopted a self-defensive measure to cope with the grave situation in which the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are leading the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war, they said.

They expressed full support to the order of the supreme commander of the Korean People's Army to get fully ready for combat mobilisation with heightened revolutionary vigilance.

Those who are fond of fire are bound to be burned in the flame, they said, and strongly demanded that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets immediately stop the reckless war exercises.

Deployment of Combat Equipment in South Decried

SK0603051490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Pyongyang March 6 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are massing their aggression forces and combat equipment in and around South Korea for the "Team

Spirit 90" joint military exercises. This comes under fire in NODONG SINMUN today.

They sent the extra-large nuclear-powered aircraft carrier "Carl Vinson" to Sasebo port and another large aircraft carrier "Midway" to the sea off Pusan and brought "C-130" and "C-141" transport planes carrying huge Armed Forces of the three services and combat equipment into South Korea for the ongoing military manoeuvres, says the news analyst, adding:

Facts show that the situation on the Korean peninsula is hourly approaching the grave phase on the eve of a war.

It is the strategy of the U.S. imperialists to occupy South Korea and, with it as a forward base, invade our Republic and other socialist countries in Asia. And the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres are staged as a preliminary war for putting this aggressive strategy into effect.

This is why the United States, while crying over its financial difficulties and talking about "arms reduction," is trying to keep its Armed Forces in South Korea and staging the "Team Spirit" with increased frenzy.

We are watching with heightened vigilance the reckless war gamble of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets venture a war against the North, our revolutionary Armed Forces and entire people will deal an annihilating retaliatory blow at them and the warmaniacs will pay dearly for it.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets must act with discretion and stop the war exercises, before it is too late.

Newspaper Denounces Cheney's Tour of Asia

SK2602113290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 26 Feb 90

["Why Did Cheney Tour Asia?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney talked about "readjustment" and "reduction" of the U.S. troops everywhere he went during his tour of Asia, but it was a vicious trick to deceive the world public calling for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Asia-Pacific in keeping with the trend of disarmament and detente, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article.

The paper points out:

The Cheney's trip to South Korea, the Philippines and Japan showed that what he talked about the cutback of U.S. forces was just formal and it was an ostentatious signboard to reinforce the combat strength by increasing the war potentials of the U.S. troops and force its allies and the South Korean puppets to bear the burden of U.S. military spending.

The U.S. imperialists are pushing ahead with their anti-socialist strategy, world strategy by maintaining and reinforcing the U.S. troops in Asia-Pacific and tightening the aggressive system of the U.S.-Japan-South Korea triangular military alliance.

Cheney's recent tour was planned and made according to the requirement of the U.S. mperialists' strategy.

In South Korea, he declared that the U.S. troops would "continue to stay" there as long as the United States and South Korea want and that even if "forces are readjusted," they will leave intelligence equipment, the 2nd Infantry Division, airborne combat power and other military means as they are.

He also stressed that the program of "reducing" the U.S. forces in Japan is to upgrade their capacity and it will not "weaken their military strength."

In the Philippines, too, he worked hard to keep up the presence of the U.S. troops and extend the period of the use of the U.S. military bases.

During his inspection, Cheney tried to impose the financial burden resulting from the redeployment and readjustment of the U.S. troops upon Japan and South Korea.

In submission to the pressure and threat from Cheney, the South Korean puppets agreed to additionally pay 380 million dollars for the upkeep of the U.S. troops in South Korea.

He demanded of Japan to increase the funds for maintaining the U.S. troops by 4.5 billion dollars and the Japanese side is in the likelihood signs of meeting this demand.

If the United States truly wants detente and peace, it must withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from the Asia-Pacific region, in particular, from the South of the Korean peninsula where there is the greatest tension.

KCNA Cites NODONG SINMUN on South

'Fascist Suppression' Decried

SK2502084290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0820 GMT 25 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the No Tae-u group's fascist suppression of the reunification and democratic forces.

The South Korean puppet clique condemned life imprisonment and other heavy penalties 68 students who were involved in the so-called "Pusan Tongui University case" and searched the Practical Literature Publishing House, confiscated 74 books of poems and walked away Pong-uk, an author of them, on charges of the violation of the "National Security Law," the news analyst says, and goes on:

As for these students and persons whom the puppets arrested, took to the police or tried and punished, they participated in the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification or conducted press activities; their struggle is natural.

The fascist violence against the reunification and democratic forces has become more undisguised, timing to coincide with the "political restructuring" through the treacherous three-party merger by the No Tae-u group.

The "new mega-party" has drawn the blood-stained sword of fascism.

It is clearer that the three-party merger, a coalition of the military fascist elements and right-wing reactionaries, is an anti-democratic, anti-national criminal act to continue the fascist and splittist policy by strengthening the military dictatorial forces and suppressing and obliterating the reunification and democratic forces.

'Economic Crisis' Viewed

SK2602113590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1053 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today exposes the reactionary nature of the "industrial peace" doctrine preached by the traitor No Tae-u to get out of the economic crisis, contending that the acute crisis of the South Korean economy has been caused by the demand of the workers for "high pay" and "labour-management disputes."

But this is not the cause of the catastrophic economic crisis in South Korea today. The crisis is an unavoidable throe of the deformed colonial dependent economy and a natural consequence of the predatory economic pressure of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets' submissive policy of flunkeyist treachery, the author of the article says, and goes on:

The reactionary nature of the "industrial peace" doctrine preached by the No Tae-u group lies, first of all, in that it is a deceptive slogan to keep the working people from struggling for the vital rights and democratic freedom by lulling their discontent and paralyzing their class awareness and consciousness of struggle.

The South Korean puppets argue that workers and employers should "cooperate with each other" and seek "co-existence and co-prosperity," discarding the scheme of confrontation" in order to make "industrial peace" settle down. This is a reactionary sophism to dull the class awareness and spirit of resistance of the workers.

The reactionary nature of this doctrine lies also in that it is a slogan of fascist suppression to shift the blame for the economic crisis on to the workers and stifle their struggle for the right to existence and democratic freedom at the point of the bayonet.

The "industrial peace" cried for by the fascist clique is an industrial peace which will be maintained by the military fascist power politics, with the workers' right to existence and democratic freedom obliterated. Now the puppets are stifling the demand of the workers for wage hike and so on by a strong arm and harshly suppressing even the activities of labour unions by invoking government power in dealing with the problems between the workers and employers under the pretext of "industrial peace."

The reactionary nature of the doctrine also lies in that it is a sophism to allow the comprador clans to freely exploit the working people.

The South Korean puppets are preaching under the slogan of "industrial peace" that the working people "should work hard with the consciousness of being masters of the companies." In a nutshell, it is as good as telling the workers that they should help the capitalists accumulate wealth and not resist but submit to the latter, however harsh exploitation and plunder they may be forced to.

Such brigandish logic of the traitor No Tae-u reveals his intention to guarantee maximum profits to foreign monopolies and comprador businesses, the foundations of the maintenance of the military dictatorship, and keep the dictatorial power by receiving political funds from them in reward.

If the No Tae-u group truly had the intention to take care of the workers, it must not cry for "industrial peace" but abolish evil labour laws which obliterate the workers' right to existence and their basic rights of labour, liquidate comprador clans of worst type and give up the reactionary military fascist terrorist rule, first of all.

Rallies in ROK Reported

SK2702054490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0532 GMT 27 Feb 90

["Criminal Act Trampling Underfoot People's Demand"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 27 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u group "blocked at the initial stage" a "people's rally" against the merger of three parties which had been planned by South Korean people of all strata on February 24 in Seoul. Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today in a commentary says:

This was one more high-handed fascist outrage to stifle the patriotic and democratic forces calling for independence, democracy and reunification.

Through the repressive action this time, the No group itself made it plain that the three-way merger was a criminal move to trample underfoot the will and demand of people and prolong the colonial military fascist dictatorial "regime" by whipping together the ultra-right reactionary forces, the news analyst notes, and continues:

The South Korean people's struggle against the three-party merger is entirely just.

The "new mega-party" borne of the three-way merger in South Korea is a rendezvous of traitors who seek treachery, fascism and division.

The No Tae-u-Kim Yong-sam-Kim Chong-pil group has decided to keep the notorious "National Security Law" as it is and harshly suppress the struggle of South Korean workers who demand the right to existence and democracy under the pretext of "industrial peace."

After the announcement of "political restructuring," the puppets are issuing repressive orders one after another and running wild in the suppression of people and buildup of repressive armed forces.

How can the South Korean people who desire independence, democracy and reunification remain indifferent to the criminal collusion of No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil?

The traitor No and the political charlatans who threw themselves into his arms should squarely look at the situation and give up at once the drama of "political restructuring."

Unification Minister's Remarks on Wall Assailed

SK2702005990 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 24 Feb 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] In this hour of station commentary, I will talk about what the minister of National Unification Board said in a party-government meeting.

At a party-government meeting held at Chongwadae on the morning of 23 February, Minister of National Unification Board Yi Hong-ku, commenting on the North's call for removing the concrete wall built in the area south of the truce line for free travel and complete opening between the North and South, preposterously provoked a quarrel by arguing that there is no wall along the truce line. He then said that the North has laid bare its lack of will to free travel by calling for such a thing or that it is nothing but a propaganda trick designed to make itself appear to be active in opening domestically.

Yi Hong-ku also took pains in his efforts to lay the blame for the complete suspension of the North-South talks on the North. This is a criminal act of mocking and insulting all fellow countrymen in the North and South, along with members of the international community—all of whom hope for peace and reunification on the Korean peninsula. Moreover, it is also a disclosure of the antinational nature of the present ruling group bent on confrontation and on perpetuating division.

As is widely known, the great President Kim Il-song, sun of the nation and lodestar of reunification, advanced a new proposal for reunification of the country in his New Year's Address, calling for the concrete wall built in the area south of the truce line to be brought down and for free travel and complete opening to be realized. This is an epochal proposal which he has put forward after taking into consideration the pressing desire of the times and all the fellow countrymen who hope for the removal of the isolation and reunification.

The concrete wall built by the separatists in the area south of the truce line is a symbol of national division and confrontation between the North and South as well as a national shame. So, all the fellow countrymen in the North and South unanimously hope for the dismantling of the concrete wall, free travel, and a complete opening between the North and South, thereby paving the way for reconciliation and reunification.

Since even the No Tae-u group welcomed the dismantling of the wall of division in some other country, it has no justification to refuse to bring down the concrete wall. This notwithstanding, the No Tae-u group persistently denied the existence of the concrete wall, unforgivably mocking and insulting the desire of all the fellow countrymen who want to do away with confrontation and hostility between the North and South.

As long as the concrete wall is left there, the No Tae-u group will not be able to convince the people of his words about the opening and reunification, no matter how noisily it may babble about such things.

The same is true of the North-South talks that Yi Hong-ku mentioned in the party-government meeting. Although Yi Hong-ku tried to blame the North for the discontinuation of the North-South talks, the responsibility for it rests entirely with the ruling group. It is universally known that the Team Spirit, the annual South Korean-U.S. joint military exercise, is what creates tensions on the Korean peninsula and stands in the normal advancement of the talks.

Since it was none other than this war exercise that broke up midway the various channels of talks in the past, if the No Tae-u group genuinely hopes for talks and welcomes free travel and complete opening, it should not only stop conducting the Team Spirit war exercise, but also bring down the concrete wall.

That the No Tae-u group is conducting this year again the Team Spirit war exercise against the North, the other party to the talks, shows that it wants war, not peace on the Korean peninsula, and pursues confrontation, not dialogue. Nevertheless, Yi Hong-ku tried to blame the North for the complete suspension of the North-South talks, while conducting the Team Spirit-90. What is this but a brigand-like logic of a thief calling others thieves?

The No Tae-u group can never avoid the responsibility for having created tensions on the Korean peninsula and for having broken up the talks, no matter what sophism it may spread.

The No Tae-u group should immediately discontinue the Team Spirit-90 war exercise, provide conditions for talks, remove the concrete wall, the symbol of division and confrontation as well as a shame to the nation, and realize free travel and complete opening as demanded unanimously by all the fellow countrymen.

If the No Tae-u group goes against the public aspirations for peace on and reunification of the Korean peninsula and continues to cling to confrontation and perpetuation of division, it will never be able to avoid being brought to public court.

South Korea

Officials, Media React to Tunnel's Discovery

No Tae-u Cautions Kim Il-song

SK0603054590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0534 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u warned North Korea Tuesday that "armed provocation against the South will never succeed and only lead to its own grave of self-destruction."

Responding to Saturday's discovery of a fourth "invasion" tunnel beneath the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing South and North Korea, No said the North's construction of tunnels crossing the buffer zone into the South "realistically shows the danger of the North's armed provocation against the South in its bid to stave off difficulties facing Pyongyang.

"The only thing North Korea can attain by this anti-national maneuver is its self-destruction, I would like to clearly caution the North's highest responsible authority (Kim Il-song)," No said in an address at a commencement ceremony at the Korea Military Academy.

"The discovery of the tunnel on the eastern frontline last weekend is alarming and shocking to the nation and the world. Under these circumstances, we should defend freedom by blocking North Korean aggression through a firm defense posture and induce it to join a forum for national integration after abandoning its silly dream of reunification by communizing the South," he said.

"Swirls of reform and openness in Eastern Europe put the North on the verge of a choice. We hope North Korea will come out from its extreme isolation into the world of openness and reform and advance on its own along the paths of development. The North, however, has unfortunately rejected the change so far and sticks to its silly dream of communized reunification of Korea," the president said.

No's stern warning follows the discovery of a fourth tunnel dug by the North in the eastern DMZ near Chorwon, 105 kilometers northeast of Seoul.

The underground passage crosses 1,080 meters into the South and is 2 meters wide, 2 meters high and an average of 145 meters below the surface, according to the Defense Ministry.

The find has renewed South Korean fears that North Korean hostility toward the South is undiminished, and caused concern that it may undermine the process of dialogue with Pyongyang.

Defense officials said the tunnels were designed to place North Korean troops and armor behind South Korea's front line in a surprise attack and to infiltrate armed agents into the South.

The two Koreas remain technically at war although an armistice silenced guns after three years of bloody fighting in 1953.

Seoul, its hopes raised by the mood for a new detente between East and West, has said it will seek disarmament talks with the North to lower tension on the Korean peninsula, where nearly 2 million armed troops face each other over the heavily fortified DMZ.

Noting that dictatorial communist governments in the East Bloc have collapsed and that East and West Germany are moving rapidly toward unification with the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, No said, "These changes bring hope and courage to our people, who suffer the anguish of national division."

Kang Still Wants Dialogue

SK0503124390 Seoul YONHAP in English 1203 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun hinted Monday that the South Korean Government would continue seeking dialogue with its North Korean counterpart despite the discovery on Saturday of another North Korean tunnel in the Demilitarized Zone.

While answering at a parliamentary interpellation session, Kang said, "The South-North exchanges and cooperations which have been pursued thus far should neither be altered nor stopped because of the finding of the fourth tunnel."

When asked by a ruling party lawmaker about whether the government was willing to have inter-Korean talks on environmental problems, the prime minister said, "We are ready to propose it as soon as conditions are ripe for South-North dialogue."

Kang said the government would consider staging an on-the-spot investigation of the newly-found tunnel. He, however, dismissed as "an unrealistic idea" a proposal for a joint South-North investigation of the tunnel.

North-South Probe Proposed

SK0503124790 Seoul YONHAP in English 1216 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 5 (YONHAP)—The U.N. Command (UNC) proposed to North Korea Monday to jointly investigate the recently discovered "infiltration tunnel" dug by North Korea under the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which divides the two Koreas.

The UNC made the call in a message conveyed to North Korea through the truce village of Panmunjom.

"We have evidence for another tunnel under the DMZ, which is an extremely serious violation of the Armistice Agreement," U.S. Rear Adm. Larry G. Vogt, representing the U.S.-led UNC, said in the message.

"All the evidence gathered thus far by our multinational special investigation team indicates the tunnel began inside your side of the DMZ, and extends over a thousand meters into our portion of the DMZ," he said.

Vogt said such a tunnel could be used by military forces and "represents a flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement."

Vogt proposed that a joint observer team of the two sides meet at 11 a.m. Tuesday at Panumnjom.

Under the Armistice Agreement, which ended the three-year Korean War in 1953, the two sides could operate a joint observer team to investigate into violations of the Armistice Agreement but North Korea has never responded to UNC proposals for joint investigation since 1968.

The tunnel was unearthed in a mountainous area, 160 km northeast of Seoul by a joint South Korea-U.S. team, according to a Defense Ministry announcement Saturday.

The tunnel, 145 meters below the surface is two meters wide and two meters high, crossing 1,080 meters into the southern buffer zone, ministry officials said.

26 DMZ Tunnels Suspected

SK0603072890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0658 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean and U.S. engineers have identified 26 suspected tunnels dug by North Korea under the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) dividing the Korean peninsula, a top Korean military intelligence officer said Tuesday.

The unexplained underground passages crossing into the southern half of the buffer zone were located by the Korea-U.S. joint Tunnel Neutralization Teams, which began their search after three North Korean invasion tunnels were discovered in the mid-1970s, said Maj. Gen. Pae Tae-ung, deputy army chief of staff in charge of intelligence.

The 26 presumed tunnels are in addition to the four, whose existence has been confirmed, the general said.

Pae told the National Assembly Defense Committee that more than 250 Americans, including geologists and army technicians, belong to the neutralization teams and provide advanced technology for the search.

The two-star general declined to go into detail.

The Defense Ministry announcement at the weekend of the confirmation of a fourth tunnel, dug by North Koreans in the eastern DMZ for use in infiltrating armed troops into the South in a surprise attack, sent shock waves throughout the nation. The ministry said it has not been confirmed when it was built.

Discovery of Tunnel Detailed

SK0603013890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] State-of-the-art underground exploratory equipment using electromagnetic waves played a decisive role in finding the fourth North Korean infiltration tunnel, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) said yesterday. The equipment was developed by Drs. Na Chong-ung, Kim Se-yun and Yun Myong-chung of KAIST.

In a press conference Sunday, Dr. Na told reporters that the exploratory equipment utilized resonance and diffraction effects of electromagnetic waves which arise when they pass through an underground cavity. The KAIST team sent a transmitter cable 300 meters underground through a drilling hole to transmit the electromagnetic waves.

A wave receiver cable, which was also hung down underground on the other side of the explored area, received the transmitter-sent electromagnetic waves which were highly diffracted, convincing the KAIST team that there was a cavity in between, Dr. Na said.

The equipment is so sophisticated and effective as to allow determination of th exact location of the No. 4 tunnel as well as its width and height, the KAIST researcher said.

Na said, "We had difficulty in discovering the tunnel because of deviation inevitable in the process of underground drilling—about 5 meters for every 100 meters of boring."

He revealed that the tunnel was found in the third drilling. "But, had it not been for the electromagnetic wave survey, the discovery of the fourth invasion tunnel would have been almost impossible," Dr. Na said.

"The waterproofed transmitter and receiver antennae must resist high atmospheric pressure underground," he said. "We also had difficulty in sending equipment down underground to amplify the feeble wave signals."

Na said his KAIST team was commissioned by the Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry Ministry in 1980 to detect a cavity inside a huge heap of rice bags without dismantling the pile, and in the course of the research, they found the phenomenon of resonance and diffraction of electromagnetic waves passing through cavities.

At that time, the ministry was pestered by thieves who diverted rice bags from agro-cooperative warehouses without changing the outer configuration of the rice bag heaps, the middle space of which, in fact, was vacant.

Modelled after the underground exploratory equipment contrived by the U.S. Lawrence Livermore Lab, the KAIST team developed their own version of the detection equipment in 1986 with a government subsidy of 600 million won.

Na said the KAIST equipment proved itself far more effective in discovering underground tunnels than U.S., Norwegian and Canadian gadgets using pulse electromagnetic wave or subterranean sonar technology. The senior KAIST researcher said the equipment has many other applications, in cultural asset excavation, underground nuclear waste depot exploration and civil engineering works.

Newspaper Assesses Fallout

SK0603011890 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Mar 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Fourth Infiltration Tunnel"]

[Text] It is shocking and astounding to learn that a joint Korea-U.S. survey team has uncovered a new tunnel dug by North Korea to invade the South by surprise under the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas. The survey team successfully penetrated the tunnel, the fourth of its kind, Saturday afternoon while a group of local and foreign newsmen watched.

On the following day, a military dog, according to an announcement by the Defense Ministry, was killed in an explosion of a land mine laid in a wooden box in the newly-discovered passway by the North Korean excavators, while mobilized in a search operation but there were no personal casualties reported, fortunately, in the mine blast.

We cannot but feel stifled with the discovery of another infiltration pathway, a foolish proof again confirming the North Korean authorities' constant and sinister plot to invade the South, while engaging in gestures of peaceful offense toward South Korea. Thus Pyongyang has never changed its policy of two-sided operations, continuing vicious preparations for resuming provocations while employing ostensibly peaceful offensives.

We have long become inured to North Korea's deceitful policy. Yet, the people in the South once again felt indignant learning of the existence of a new aggression tunnel dug by the North Koreans, being mindful of their head Kim Il-song's New Year message released only two months ago that referred to the non-existent "concrete wall" in the southern sector of the 155-mile-long DMZ, a barrier he denounced as a visible symbol of the division of Korea in a wicked attempt to pass the buck to the South.

With the discovery of the fourth North Korea-built underground passway, the first in the eastern DMZ, the previous three tunnels being in the western and central frontline areas, it is apparent that North Korea's infiltration tunnels, estimated at more than 20, have been dug throughout the entire frontline.

The first three tunnels were uncovered between November 1974 and October 1978, more than 11 years ago. No doubt, all of these tunnels are believed to have been dug to be used for surprise attacks into the South.

According to a military officer, the new tunnel was probably dug in the 1970s but remained unfinished. But the exact time when its construction was started is yet to be determined by further surveys.

In spite of the discovery of the fourth tunnel, dumbfounding us is the news report that North Koreans have begun to announce over loudspeakers along the Military Demarcation Line that there are no tunnels dug by them.

North Korea apparently started digging infiltration tunnels after its ruler Kim Il-song in 1971 stressed the need for digging them, saying that one underground passway is more effective in tactical value than 10 nuclear bombs.

We are now witnessing unexpectedly great cataclysms almost everywhere in the world with the Berlin Wall virtually removed as initial sign of a domino phenomenon for democratization and door-opening in Eastern Europe and other socialist countries except only a few countries including North Korea.

Pyongyang is urged in earnest to cast away its anachronistic folly and follow the worldwide current of opening doors internationally and reducing armaments in a new detente between the West and East.

It is also urged to admit the existence of tunnels it has dug hitherto and close all of them. In addition, if it really wants peace with the South, North Korea should disperse into its rear areas its troops and weapons densely deployed close to the nation's capital of Seoul.

Pyongyang is called upon to discontinue its deceitful policy for good and show visible acts to ease tension hovering over the Korean peninsula. This call is to head off any recurrence of irrevocable tragedy for the homogeneous Korean people.

Inter-Korean Ties Could Cool

SK0603015290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 6 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] The finding of a fourth North Korean tunnel, which South Korean defense officials have defined as built for invasion purposes, is likely to cool inter-Korean

relations and further bring about some change in South Korea's policy of appeasement.

Government officials said yesterday that it is inevitable for Seoul to alter its policy toward inducing Pyongyang into the international community through dialogue and persuasion.

Choe Pyong-po, spokesman of the National Unification Board, pressed the North to abandon its "anachronistic idea" to confuse and topple the South Korean government.

In a statement, he said, "The North Korean attitude to hold talks with the South, while digging an invasion tunnel, is not acceptable in that inter-Korean dialogue can make progress only on the basis of mutual respect and trust.

"The tunnel is clear evidence that the North is still clinging to the policy to communize the South. This can also be shown by its insincere posture in dialogue including the delay of talks under various pretexts," he added.

One senior official at the board said, "The discovery of the tunnel will chill inter-Korean relations. We have to review our peace proposals."

The South will take issue with the tunnel, the fourth detected in the border, in every meeting with North Korea. The North has cut off all levels of contact with the South, citing the annual South Korea-U.S. military exercise which will start next month.

"We urge North Koreans to explain about the tunnel and apologize for the provocative action if multi-level talks are resumed," said the official. But it does not mean that the South will totally give up its strategies of having Pyongyang open its doors to the West, he added.

Prime Minister Refuses To Confirm Secret Talks

SK0603021690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpts] A sterile debate on the legitimacy of the merger of the former DJP [Democratic Justice Party], RDP [Reunification Democratic Party] and NDRP [New Democratic Republican Party] into the DLP [Democratic Liberal Party] marked the first day of lawmakers' questioning of cabinet ministers on issues of national concern at the National Assembly yesterday. [passage omitted]

Independent Rep. Pak Chan-chong, referring to the report that a high-ranking north Korean official had visited Seoul early last month, pressed the prime minister for clarification. He also questioned when the government would announce the secret contacts made recently between the two Koreas.

[Prime Minister] Kang, sticking to the principle of "neither confirm nor deny," said that inter-Korea secret contacts could be justified by the general principles of diplomacy.

"I don't believe that revelation of such contacts, if there had been any, in detail would contribute to achieving national reconciliation," he said, emphasizing the political and historical importance of the issue involved. [passage omitted]

Delegate Expresses Regret to North Counterpart

SK0603091990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0900 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—Song Han-ho, South Korea's senior delegate to preparatory contacts for South-North high-level talks, expressed regret that North Korea has decided to suspend dialogue with the South and called on the North to show sincerity Tuesday in a telephone message to his North Korean counterpart, Paek Nam-chun.

"It is a regret that the seventh round of our meeting is impossible to convene since your side has unilaterally declared a suspension of the dialogue under an unfair pretext," Song said, reminding Paek of their agreement in the sixth preparatory contact to hold the seventh meeting on Wednesday.

"Your side has revealed its indifference to dialogue and reconciliation by stopping South-North dialogue, by making an ill-founded demand for the dismantling of a concrete wall and by calling for the suspension of the joint Korea-U.S. Military exercises," he said.

Song said Saturday's discovery of an invasion tunnel dug by North Korea under the Demilitarized Zone had caused "appalling shock and dismay among all Korean people and all peace-loving peoples of the world."

Choe Ho-chung To Give Message to PRC Minister

SK0603022590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0216 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Seoul, March 6 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung will deliver a message to Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, proposing the two meet to discuss opening formal diplomatic relations, during a brief stopover in Beijing on his way to Pakistan on March 12, a ministry source said Tuesday.

The Korean Government has asked U.S. Ambassador James Lilley, who was ambassador to Seoul before being posted to Beijing last year, to arrange an airport meeting with a high-ranking Chinese official for delivery of the letter and Lilley is discussing the matter with Chinese Foreign Ministry officials, said the source, who declined to be identified.

The source said Seoul has contacted Beijing through various channels in an attempt to hold foreign ministers' talks at an early date to advance the opening of diplomatic ties.

The source refused to say whether he thinks Choe will be able to meet a Chinese official at Beijing Airport and a ministry spokesman declined to comment on Choe's unofficial contact with the Chinese side.

Choe will meet with Lilley and the Pakistani ambassador during the one-and-half-hour stopover en route to Islamabad.

Choe had already proposed meetings with Qichen as well as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to discuss the opening of diplomatic ties with the two communist giants, allies of South Korean adversary North Korea.

According to press reports, senior Foreign Ministry officials from Seoul and Beijing met last month to discuss improving relations. The ministry spokesman declined to confirm or deny the reports.

Choe will make official visits to Pakistan, India, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria March 12-23, signing a protocol on diplomatic ties in Prague and a joint declaration on diplomatic relations in Sofia and discussing ways to promote cooperation.

Seoul set up ambassador-level diplomatic ties with Yugoslavia last month, following those with Hungary and Poland last year. He will also sign an agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation with Bulgaria.

In India and Pakistan, Choe will discuss mutual diplomatic cooperation in Korea's bid to join the United Nations and the stance of non-aligned nations.

KBS Interview With ROK Foreign Minister

SK1702055590 Seoul Television Service in Korean 1200 GMT 15 Feb 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung on 15 February by KBS Anchorman Pak Song-pom—recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung proposed foreign ministers' talks with his counterparts in the Soviet Union and China in an interview taped this afternoon for the Korean Broadcasting System's [KBS] 2100 news report.

You are going to hear Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung explain it himself.

[Pak] Good afternoon, Mr. Minister. In a sense, many signs indicate that relations between our country and the Soviet Union are moving in the direction of improvement and normalization.

However, in the eyes of the people the Soviet Union's policy toward the Korean peninsula still seems to be two-faced in nature. For instance, Soviets in public organizations and in state-run institutions are calling for a normalization of relations between the two countries. The Soviet foreign minister's recent remarks, however, leave us with an impression that the Soviet Union is still supporting the North Korean side's stand. This is exactly what puzzles our people.

How do you assess, Mr. Minister, Soviet policy toward the Korean peninsula?

[Choe] We believe that the Soviet Union's basic policy toward our country is steadily changing at a time when many changes, including the repudiation of one-party governing system and the introduction of a multiparty system, are being made. We welcome it.

In a joint statement released at the end of a recent U.S.-Soviet foreign ministers' talks we find that there was a serious discussion of the Korean peninsula question and that the participants stressed the need to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and the need for the North and South to conduct dialogue between them.

We welcome this because it coincides with our consistent stand. Foreign Minister Shevardnadze was reported to have said in a press conference following the foreign ministers' talks that a wall still exists on the Korean peninsula and that it should be pulled down. Undeniably, this is because the Soviet Union has maintained close ties only with North Korea and that it has unilaterally listened to North Korea only. As a result, the Soviet Union is not well versed in the realities on the Korean peninsula. At the same time, we guess that Shevardnadze, finding it necessary to give North Korea an impression that the Soviet Union stands behind it, may have said so, even though he knew reality to be otherwise.

At any rate, it is important to make the Soviet Union have a correct understanding of the realities on the Korean peninsula. So, through the consular department that we have established with the Soviet Union—already two consular officers are in that country and the head of the consular department will soon be sent over there, and also through various other channels—we will make an uninterrupted effort to goad the Soviet Union into having a correct understanding of the realities on the Korean peninsula and to improve relations with our country on the basis of such a correct understanding.

[Pak] Mr. Minister, our country had already set the northern policy in motion shortly before the enormous changes took place in the East European countries, if my memory is correct. We can also assume that it was thanks to these changes in that region that our country's northern policy was able to achieve greater successes than expected.

Now that these changes in East Europe are expected to face an inevitable task—the reestablishment of a new

global order, some people say that our northern policy, too, is in need of partial changes. What do you think of this opinion?

[Choe] Although the changes in East Europe began earnestly last fall, our country declared the northern policy way before these changes. To be more specific, President No announced it in his 7 July declaration in July 1988.

We proudly think that we have made great contributions to East-West detente with our country's very successful hosting of the Olympics in Seoul in September that year and it is true that our contribution as such is widely recognized by the international community. Thanks to this, we have been able to achieve more than we expected in our northern policy.

Our country's establishment of diplomatic relations with Hungary on 1 February last year has led the way to establishing diplomatic ties with Poland and Yugoslavia. This year we have reached a point where we can expect the same thing with Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria very soon.

This being the case, I do not find it necessary to basically change our northern policy yet. The nucleus of our northern policy is to establish formal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and China at an early date.

This is why we at the Foreign Ministry have decided to put our main stress on efforts toward establishing formal diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and China this year and to make diversified efforts toward this goal. We will make diversified efforts toward opening diplomatic channels for direct contacts between the governments.

In addition, I would like to make my intention clear that we are willing to meet with the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and China if the conditions are ripe.

We also hope for an affirmative response from the Soviet Union and China to this positive attitude of ours.

[Pak] Defense Secretary Cheney of the United States is presently on a visit to our country. In this connection, I would like to say that we recognize the role the U.S. troops in South Korea is playing in deterring war on the Korean peninsula. Considering the trend of the world, however, there is a view that the call for the continued presence of the U.S. troops in South Korea is becoming less convincing in view of our diplomacy in the international community. What do you say about this?

[Choe] For any sovereign independent nation, defending oneself is an indisputable duty. Thus, no nation would ever desire the permanent presence of any foreign forces on its own soil, and our nation, too, never desires or calls for it. What is important, however, is that we should clearly realize why the U.S. troops are in Korea. One thing we should consider is whether we should continue to maintain the current troop level or structure, in case a joint military deterrence is possible anyway. We should adopt a more realistic stand toward this question. Our position is that, through close mutual consultations between the governments of the two countries, the troop level or structure can be adjusted to the extent that the war deterrence is not affected at all on the Korean peninsula.

[Pak] This is my last question Minister Choe. To my knowledge, we are still maintaining our policy on the ROK's unilateral entry into the United Nations. But, there are opinions that we should first seek the reunification of the country, instead of seeking UN entry. This is because the policy was actually adopted before the change began to take place between the East and West, because the state of confrontation between the East and West has now changed, and because we can now exchange views even with the East European bloc. Would you please comment on this?

[Choe] If the ROK's UN membership is decided by the majority, it is certain that we will be able to obtain UN membership by earning the support of the absolute majority. At present, however, as you know, this has to be decided first at the UN Security Council. Thus, some of its permanent member nations may exercise their veto power. Under these circumstances, if we can only guarantee that the veto power is not exercised there, I think we will be able to enter the United Nations. And, if this happens, I expect North Korea as well, voluntarily or involuntarily, to change its attitude toward entering the United Nations. At any rate, if North and South Korea obtain UN membership, this, I am sure, will contribute to easing tension and planting peace on the Korean peninsula. But, North Korea opposes entering the United Nations. In this connection, we maintain the position that we cannot tolerate the situation under which our entry into the United Nations is decided according to North Korea's decision. We hope to enter the United Nations along with North Korea. However, if North Korea is not ready or has no desire to do so, we will seek our unilateral entry. This is our present position.

* Local Autonomy Bill Passes National Assembly

* Preparations for Change

902C0104A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 20 Dec 89 p 3

[By Social Affairs Desk reporters]

[Text] For some time city and county governments throughout the country have been hurriedly making various preparations for the introduction of local autonomy by drawing up budgets and securing office buildings, in addition to searching for financial resources.

The following is the latest rundown of preparations being made in various localities to introduce local autonomy next year.

Budget: Already earmarked in the central government budget for the next fiscal year are appropriations to cover expenses for the organization and operation of local assemblies at all levels and usher in a new age of the countryside.

In the case of the Pusan municipal government, a budgetary fund of more than 2,003 million won is earmarked for the introduction of local autonomy.

Taegu City also earmarked 1 billion won, and Kwangju City set aside 1,729 million won in the budget.

The South Cholla provincial government earmarked 11,697 million won, planning to spend 8,630 (figure as published) million won including 2,394 million won for the provincial assembly elections, 3,549 million won for municipal and county assembly elections in 6 cities and 21 counties, and 3,310 million won for building costs.

Kyonggi Province, which has the largest number of cities and counties, has earmarked 2,730 million won for the provincial assembly election and 26.94 million for each city and county to subsidize local assembly elections. The fund earmarked for the election, organization, and operation of the provincial assembly alone totals 4,432,300,000 won, and the fund earmarked for the operation expenses of municipal and county assemblies total over 6.9 billion won. In this way, this province earmarked funds to meet to a certain extent the expenses the cities and counties will have to incur in order to introduce local autonomy next year.

Assembly Buildings: What is most urgently required prior to the establishment of local assemblies is to secure assembly buildings in cities and counties.

In some cases, new buildings have been erected. But in most cases, the plans currently being drawn up call for expansion or remodeling of existing provincial, municipal, county, and district offices to house local assemblies. Some city and provincial governments plan to purchase existing office buildings.

The Kangwon Provincial government started the construction of a provincial assembly building with a total floor space of 618 pyong this July. The project is to be completed next June. The provincial government plans to secure municipal and county assembly buildings by the end of next September.

In the case of Kyonggi Province, 23 cities and counties already secured buildings for their local assemblies, but they have to secure new buildings soon because the ones already secured do not measure up to the standards—170 to 250 pyong for city assemblies and 150 to 200 pyong for county assemblies. No buildings have been secured yet for the provincial assembly and seven municipal and county assemblies, including Yongchon and Kyongsan.

Except for some cities and counties, most local governments in this province are expected to secure local assembly buildings by the time local assemblies open at some time in the first half of the coming year.

Revision of Related Ordinances:

Revision of related ordinances and regulations is as important as securing necessary budgetary appropriations and assembly buildings.

This is because local autonomy cannot be fully implemented without such revision.

For this reason, many provinces and cities have already revised hundreds of related ordinances and regulations to accommodate the transfer of powers from provincial government and the central government to cities and counties, and carried out a necessary structural revision. They have also reorganized or consolidated various organizations and committees.

In the case of North Chungchong Province, a total of 728 ordinances and regulations have been revised, including 351 provincial and 377 municipal and county ordinances, and the provincial government has transferred 213 specific central government-delegated powers and 94 specific powers of its own to cities and counties.

In addition, in adaptation to the age of the countryside, the provincial government has established a regional economic bureau and a planning office in each city and county and they will take charge of comprehensive planning functions in relation to the implementation of local autonomy.

Tapping Financial Resources:

Each city and county are supposed to secure necessary operational funds once the system of local autonomy is introduced. So, it may be said that securing necessary financial resources holds the key to success in introducing local autonomy. For this reason, each city and county worked out various plans.

In North Kyongsang Province, 31 cities and counties, except Pohang, Kumi, and Talsong counties, are financially hard pressed due to their poor financial resources.

Cities and counties in the Kyongbuk area are doing their utmost to develop profitable resources in various ways, such as inviting factories and developing tourist complexes, in an effort to secure financial resources.

The Kangwon Provincial government has set up a development corporation to improve self-rule ability and is considering introducing a resource tax on water, tourists, and underground resources. In addition, it has decided to transfer various licensing authorities, such as the authority to issue licenses for high-pressure gas manufacture, to cities and counties with a view to helping them secure their financial resources.

The South Kyongsang Provincial government has delegated to cities and counties the authority to prepare for and implement the comprehensive land tax system

which is scheduled to go into effect next year, instructing them to work out ways to secure a tax revenue under this system.

* Regional Rift Foreseen

902C0104B Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 20 Dec 89 p 3

[By Reporter No Chae-hyon]

[Text] The National Assembly passed by consent the bill on revising the Local Autonomy Law at the 11th hour before it went into recess on 19 December, thereby paving the way for reintroducing local autonomy, which has been suspended for the past 30 years since the 16 May coup d'etat.

The passage of the bill represents the first tangible political spin-off of the 11-point agreement reached at the 15 December summit talks among the heads of the ruling and opposition parties.

With a concrete schedule for the introduction of local autonomy set—local assembly elections slated for the first half of the coming year and the election of the heads of local government for the first half of 1991, the way has been opened for "local satisfaction" of political demands, which have hitherto converged on the capital.

Along with the dispersal of political demands, the decentralization of state powers will also undergo a radical change, and attention is now focused on how grass-roots democratic government will take shape.

Speculation is rife particularly as to what significance the DJP [Democratic Justice Party] proposal for the "joint nomination system" which has been accepted in the recent revision talks has and how it will operate. The joint nomination system was proposed by the DJP at the closing stage of the negotiations, and the prevailing view is that this proposal was not made merely as part of the election strategy but represents a gambit made with a long-term goal in mind, the goal of effecting multiparty policy coordination and coalition and ultimately reorganizing the political structure.

In the recent local autonomy negotiations, it was agreed that the elections of the local assemblies of special cities; the cities under the direct jurisdiction of the central government; provinces, cities, counties, and districts be held next year.

The opposition parties demanded that autonomy be introduced even at the township, village, and tong levels by including them in the category of base-level autonomous entities, but largely the DJP proposals were adopted in the course of the negotiations.

The administrative units of cities, counties, and districts can be rearranged through a modification of their administrative jurisdiction, but some 240 local assemblies will be established with more than 5,000 local assemblymen elected from medium-size electoral districts, 2 to 5 from each.

The number is still somewhat indefinite because detailed election procedures and the number of assemblymen have not been decided yet. But local assemblymen will become a new political reserve corps and are expected to cause radical changes in the structure of each political party.

For this reason, some people are of the opinion that just as political parties are practically powerless in the election of chairman of agricultural, fisheries, and animal husbandry associations, and by the same token, politics will have little effect on local assembly elections because in local elections, people in each locality choose the people who will look after their local economy. However, there is a conflicting view that local elections will have an impact on the whole domain of politics.

The PPD [Party for Peace and Democracy] persistently demanded a party nomination system for local assembly candidates because it expected that the local autonomy system would bring about a radical change in party structures.

To be more specific, the PPD thinks it can sweep the whole Honam area.

For this reason, in some quarters there are misgivings as to the possibility of the autonomy system deepening regional division.

Along with the question of whether or not candidates should be nominated by political parties, the method of appointing the deputy heads of local governments remained as a bone of controversy until the end of the negotiations.

The current Administrative Law provides that "vice mayors and vice governors shall be appointed by the president through the prime minister, at the recommendation of the minister of home affairs, and vice mayors, assistant county chiefs, and assistant district chiefs shall be appointed by the heads of local governments concerned."

The DJP, which finds it necessary to secure as much influence on local autonomous entities as possible and make the best use of existing professional public employees, persisted in abiding by this provision, and at one time in the early stage of the negotiations, it succeeded in pushing through this demand.

The just revised Local Autonomy Law provides that local governments at the higher level may exercise supervisory jurisdiction over local governments at the lower level, including the authority to issue orders to correct or cancel actions taken by them, and that local governments at the lower level, when they demur, may resort to such

means as filing an appeal. The revised law also authorizes local assemblies to inspect the administrative operation of the local administration, and also empowers the National Assembly to inspect the administrative operation of local governments, with such power limited to matters relating to the authority delegated to local governments by the central government.

The ruling and opposition parties agreed that the Local Assemblymen Election Law and the Local Government Heads Election Law will be deliberated during the extraordinary National Assembly session opening next February. Heated controversy is expected over questions such as how to delineate electoral districts and what the fixed number of local assemblymen should be.

However, given the poor and uneven financial self-supporting ability of local administrative entities, and amid the misgivings about the possible relocation of local party facilities, it remains a big question how local autonomy will take roots.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has determined that it will require at least 80 days to prepare for local assembly elections, including the time required to revise related auxiliary laws and regulations, complete resident registration and make other election preparations, and also including the campaign period. Thus by next June, we expect to see grass-roots democracy sprouting.

* Economic Recovery Plan for 1990 Discussed

902C0101A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
22 Dec 89 p 3

[Article by Kim Ki-man: "Economic Management Plan for the Coming Year—the Diagnosis Says the Condition Is Serious, 'But the Prescription Is Commonplace'"]

[Text] In the judgement of the government, our economy is in a "state of difficulty" or a "crisis." A majority of people feel and judge this to be true. There are many people who think that the economic management in the coming year in particular will mark a watershed in shaping the future direction of the Korean economy. The question is: at this very important juncture, does the government have a concrete and effective master plan and specific concrete measures?

However, "the basic outline for economic management for 1990" announced on 22 December under the title "a special report designed to cope with the difficult economic situation," has to our disappointment very little that is new in substance. It lacks concrete programs which look convincing to the general public, workers, and businessmen. True, it provides for a certain number of new supportive measures to promote export and capital investment and indicates a markedly heightened awareness of the economic crisis. But, otherwise, to all intents and purposes, the new economic plan is another rehash of what was already presented in the economic measures announced on 14 November.

As far as the new plan is concerned, there is no change in the main drift of policy because it emphasizes once again the importance of institutional economic reform designed to achieve industrial peace, equity, and balance for the sake of social and economic stability, and on this basis, calls for limited economic revitalizing measures. The government had no choice but to repeat as a matter of principle that each economic entity, whether the government, or the enterprise, or the household, should try to "do its part" instead of insisting on claiming "its share of the pie" and strive to overcome the economic crisis through mutual self-restraint and cooperation. This rather proves that the window of policy options is quite limited.

Nevertheless, the fact that for the time being at least, the stability school led by Deputy Prime Minister Cho Sun and Finance Minister Yi Kyu-song has repulsed the offensive on the part of the growth school spearheaded by Mu Hui-kap, presidential senior secretary for economic affairs; Han Sung-su, minister of trade and industry, and the business community may be a "fortunate option" when the economy in the 1990's as a whole, not just in 1990, is viewed in perspective. This is because a prescription for short-term economic pump-priming would only weaken the economic structure and snatch away the growth potential. Our current economic condition is akin to the state of a patient in a critical condition, and requires a sustained treatment. But at this juncture, an operation for a radical cure is more in order.

The government diagnoses the causes of our worsening economic ills in this way:

First, our economic strength has become greatly weakened due to the failure of the export industries to cope with the deteriorating domestic and overseas export climate, namely, the appreciated value of the won, higher wages, and trade friction in the 1987-89 period, and due to the negligence on the part of enterprises in renovating technology and upgrading their products in the 1986-88 period of boom.

Second, entering this year, the economy fell into a rapid slump partly because enterprises did little to prepare for "rainy days" and partly because the political and social unrest, in addition to labor-management strife, sapped the desire to invest, resulting in a sharp decrease in productive investments. As a consequence, investments in unproductive areas such as leisure and pleasure-seeking industries increased, preventing limited resources from being devoted to increasing production potential.

On the contrary, owing to fast rising wages and unearned income and excessive spending on luxuries, spending in the private sector registered a 9.9 percent increase this year, a rate higher than 9.6 percent registered last year, a boom year. This increase had the short-term effect of propping up the economy and growth, but it had the long-term effect of eroding productive potential, including a reduction in savings.

The "red light" was lit for the three major sectors of the real economy, namely, export, investment, and consumption, as described above, and what is more, the flow of funds was diverted to real estate speculations and financial manipulations to boost the corporate income through investment in unproductive fields rather than funneled into productive sectors, thereby putting brakes on productive potential.

Our economy this year is not so bad as far as macroeconomic indexes are concerned, with the growth rate standing a 6.5 percent, the trade surplus at $5 billion, the inflation rate of consumer prices at 5.2 percent, and the unemployment rate at 2.7 percent. The reason the government foresees the greatest economic crisis in the coming year is that in terms of the economic structure and substance, there are clearly visible symptoms of a serious illness as noted above.

A renovation of the economic structure cannot be achieved overnight but requires tremendous efforts, such as efforts to stabilize labor-management relations, as well as constant investments and technological innovations. Apparently, for this reason, and also fearing that the current difficult condition will continue through the coming year, the government has taken emergency measures, including the establishment of the "Committee To Overcome the Economic Difficulties."

According to an analysis of the Economic Planning Board, if next year our economy should be in "Condition I"—the worst scenario presuming, among others, the rekindling of labor-management strife—it would fall over a precipice, with "a growth rate of 5 percent or less, a 10-percent shrinkage in the balance of international payments, a 10-percent inflation rate of consumer prices, and a 4.5-percent unemployment rate." On the other hand, in "Condition II"—a favorable condition characterized by stable labor-management relations, and the recovery of export and investment—our economy would produce a good achievement score, with "a growth rate of 6 to 7 percent, a trade surplus between $2 to $3 million, an inflation rate of 5 to 7 percent, and an unemployment rate of 3.5 percent," paving the way for our country to join the ranks of advanced nations.

In order for the country and the economy to survive, naturally "Condition II" should be chosen, and to make this option, difficult problems, such as those of stabilizing labor-management relations and wages, achieving social stability, upgrading productivity, developing technology and manpower resources, and expanding high technology, need to be solved in a timely fashion.

To this end, the government has decided that the basic direction of economic management for the coming year should be oriented toward building a firm foundation for sustained stability, reviving economic resilience, and pushing for structural reform. Specifically, efforts will be directed at these goals:

—Maintaining basic economic stability through a stable industrial peace, stable prices, and curbs on real estate speculation.

—Upgrading competitiveness and promoting a readjustment of the industrial structure through the revitalization of export and capital investment.

—Promoting Institutional reform designed to eliminate conflict and inequality between different classes and between different sectors and promoting equity and balance through expanded support for the sectors which are falling behind.

—Accelerating the process of internationalization and modernization.

Short-term pump-priming measures, such as lowering the interest rate and drastically depreciating the exchange value of the won, can have temporary effects but will set in motion the vicious cycle of "inflation-higher wages-weakened economic strength-diminution of productive potential." They will only debilitate the economic structure, and chances are high that they will lead our economy to "Condition I." It is noteworthy that for this reason, the new economic plan rules out these short-term stimulants.

However, the government economic management plan for the coming year gives the impression that when it comes to specific measures to implement the principles, for instance, that of improving the distribution system, the measures provided for in the plan are abstract and insufficient. In addition, the plan causes misgivings because it fails to come up with programs to cope with the worst scenario contingency.

How to supplement specifics which are deficient compared with the perfect general outline and how to put concrete measures into effect arises as a problem for economic management in the coming year.

Major Economic Indexes

Items	Unit	1988 (Actual)	1989 (Estimate)	1990 (Estimate)
Growth Rate	% in constant won	12.2	6.5	6.5
Private Consumption	"	9.6	9.9	7.5
Fixed Investment	"	11.8	14.0	10.0
Commodity Export	"	14.7	-6.3	3.4
Manufacturing Industry	"	13.0	3.6	7.0
Total Savings Rate	%	37.7	35.8	35.0

Major Economic Indexes (Continued)

Items	Unit	1988 (Actual)	1989 (Estimate)	1990 (Estimate)
Total Investment Rate	"	29.9	33.4	34.1
GNP	in billions (of constant won)	123,579	137,140	152,630
"	in 100 millions (of constant dollars)	1,692	2,040	2,230
Per Capital GNP	in 10,000 (of constant won)	295	324	358
"	in constant dollars	4,040	4,830	5,230
Current Account	in 100 millions of dollars	141	50	20
Trade Balance	"	115	43	15
(Export)	"	597	610	647
(Import)	"	482	567	632
Total Foreign Debt	"	312	303	295
Overseas Assets	"	239	285	301
Net Foreign Debt	"	73	18	-6
Consumer Prices	% change	7.2	5.2	5 to7
Wholesale Prices	"	2.3	1.1	2 to3
Unemployment Rate	% change	2.5	2.7	3.5
Number of Unemployed	in thousands	435	484	647

1. Export and import figures are based on the international trade account. 2. Prices are compared with the preceding year. 3. A $600-million decrease in the net foreign debt means a $600-million credit overseas.

* Attention Focuses on Generals' Groups

902C0096A Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 8 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] People's attention is focused on the so-called "Generals' Groups."

The retired generals' groups such as Songu Hwe [Hwe means group], Songpaek Hwe, and Puram Hwe, names that ordinary people are not familiar with, are drawing people's attention. It is because they are intermingled with the current political and social streams, diverging from their original purpose of promoting friendship.

In view of the fact that the leaders of these groups are either deeply involved in the current political turmoil (in the case of Chong Ho-yong, chairman of Puram Hwe) or have a great potential to create a maelstrom (in the case of Kim Pok-tong, chairman of Songpaek Hwe), these groups can hardly be considered as mere friendship organizations.

These groups, however, feel greatly unhappy about the people's viewpoint of focusing on their political aspects or uncomfortable about the interest taken in them. They openly complain that their original goals of friendship promotion, mutual help, and contribution to the nation's development are perceived in a greatly distorted fashion. In other words, they claim that the leaders and members are independent. That is why they react very negatively to the remarks that these groups are private organizations of the leaders.

The retired or active-duty generals' groups have shown a lot of changes in accordance with the political situations.

The groups consisting of active-duty military personnel or retirees inevitably had to be political in nature. Therefore, as long as they have such political roots, they cannot exist independently of politics.

Retired Generals' Movement

As Songu Hwe held the originators' meeting on 29 November at the Veterans Association building (founder representative, Paek Son-yop, retired four-star general), the retired generals' groups came to be divided into three major groups, including the Songpaek Hwe and the Puram Hwe.

All these groups were either newly born or revived during the vastly changing process of our society after the 29 June declaration [of democratization] in 1987.

Songpaek Hwe, led by Kim Pok-tong, was founded on 15 September 1987 to become the first retired generals' group after the former Songu Club was dissolved by the Fifth Republic in December 1982. Puram Hwe, led by Chong Ho-yong, was founded in February 1988, right before President No was inaugurated.

The external factors which made the birth of these groups possible were of course the democratization and autonomous movements created by the Sixth Republic. On the other hand, the mushrooming of such groups during the upheaval was considered to have a significant

meaning, more than just a friendship promotion, in view of the fact that the military personnel's powerful influence on politics and society continuously prevails, and that it was the period of power transition between the Korea Military Academy's (KMA) 11th Class graduates.

All the retired or active-duty military personnel's private organizations were dissolved by the former President Chon Tu-hwan. Previously, the late former President Pak Chong-hui dissolved Hana Hwe in April 1973, which consisted mainly of the regular KMA graduates (11th class and later) in relation to the so-called Yun Pil-yong incident. The former President Chon, who survived, although he was one of the core members of Hana Hwe, at the start of his power, dissolved Songu Club consisting of the retired generals of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, Puk Kuk Song [North Star] Hwe consisting of the regular KMA alumnae, Chong Paek Hwe consisting of retired KMA graduates and Porame Hwe consisting of the retired Air Force officers.

Accordingly, organizations consisting of only each class and of special interests survived. The former President Chon, who himself was a politically oriented officer and knew the private military organizations' characteristics better than anybody else, declared such measures in order to effectively and independently control the military.

The activities of the various retired generals' groups formed at the same time as the Sixth Republic have been relatively open, unlike under the Fifth Republic. Interestingly enough, most of these groups are promoting the protection of a free and democratic system as one of their major goals, together with friendship promotion. They believe that the expansion of the leftists' power reached a dangerous level and are cautious about indiscreet reunification talks. Judging from this, these retired generals' groups are expected to advocate joining together with other right-wing groups, including the newly organized General Leagues of Freedom (headed by Chong Il-kwon) and the Council of Democratic Reform and Pan Democratization Movement (headed by Kim Yong-kap).

In addition to the Songu Hwe, "Sungkong [victory over communism] Songu Hwe" (chairman, Han Tae-won, retired major general, KMA 2nd class) was founded by the 120 retired generals from the Army, Navy and Air Force in August, and the former "Porame Hwe," a retired Air Force officers' club (chairman, Chang Chi-ryang, 9th Air Force Chief of Staff) was revived on 23 November. In addition, "Chungho Hwe," a retired Defense Security Command officers' club (chairman, Kim Hak-ho, retired major general, KMA 11th class), which was founded in September, drew the people's attention. The Chungho Hwe membership consists of about 10,000 former DSC [Defense Security Command] enlisted men and officers. The influence of the military retirees is increasing politically and socially, as evidenced by the volunteer mobile service groups for the neighberhood crime watch, organized by the existing Marine Corps' Comrade-in-Arms Club and the Special Warfare Comrades' Club.

Songpaek Hwe

Since this group is headed by Kim Pok-tong (KMA 11th class, retired lieutenant general, former KMA president), who is known to be preparing for a debut into the political arena, and is serving a 3-year term since its founding in September 1987. For this reason it is getting more attention from the political circle than any other similar organizations. While Puram Hwe membership consists of only the retired generals of KMA 11th class graduates and after, the Songpaek Hwe membership consists of about 500 retired generals from the Army, Navy, and Air Force. It is the biggest organization, which has about one-third of all the retired generals as members.

The membership qualification is only open to those who entered the military service during the Korean war, which limits, in the case of KMA, to the 11th class through the 14th class graduates. There are about 90 KMA graduates, a substantial number of those, including Chairman Kim Pok-tong himself, have dual membership in the Songpaek Hwe and the Puram Hwe.

The purpose of the group, according to the charter, is to "promote friendship and mutual help among the members, and to contribute to the nation's development by enhancing each member's dignity and education." Their organization and activities are more conspicuous than other similar organizations. It consists of 22 branches such as "Ilsong Hwe," "Samsong Hwe" and "Songchi Hwe." Their activities include hobby-oriented ones such as mountain hiking, fishing, waterstone collection, and regular bi-monthly lecture series.

Since there are only three to four years of age difference among the members and they are strongly tied together based on war comradeship, they emphasize lasting friendship at each meeting.

The Songpaek Hwe had a big end-of-the-year party on 1 December at the Olympic fencing stadium with about 150 member couples participating. Some people considered the party a strategic movement to show off their power and an indication of commencing political activity in relation to the alleged Chairman Kim's debut into politics.

Another activity that drew the people's attention was the daily visit to the National Cemetary by about 200 to 300 members from 15 June 15 over a period of 10 days.

A notable difference from Puram Hwe is that there is no one in Songpaek Hwe who was involved in leading the 12 December military coup in 1980 [that brought former President Chon Tu-hwan to power] and few of them are high-ranking government officials or assemblymen. As Chairman Kim Pok-tong himself is known to have forced to retire because of his refusal to participate in the

12 December coup, it is considered that Songpaek Hwe consists of the victims of the coup while Puram Hwe consists of the core members of the coup.

Choe Chun (retired brigadier general, KMA 11th class), one of the secretaries of Songpaek Hwe, reacted to the people's view of his organization from a political angle, by saying, "If we are into politics, we will do it openly by clearly declaring our intention. It is too strong a generalization to say that our organization is equivalent to a political party."

He also emphasized the organization's non-political characteristics by saying, "If Chairman Kim bids for the presidency, it is his personal idea which is not related to the organization's, and the organization will not support it as an organized decision."

Among the core members are Chang Tae-wan, former commander of the Army Capital Garison Command (KMA 11th class, major general) and Ha So-kon (KMA 1st class, major general), both of who refused to participate in the 12 December coup; Choe Song-taek (KMA 11th class, lieutenant general, president of Korea Petroleum Development Company), who did not directly participate in the coup as a member of Chilsong Hwe which was Hana Hwe's central organizing group; Kwon Yong-kak, former Minister of National Construction (KMA 5th class), Yi Kwang-no, national assemblyman from the Democratic Justice Party (KMA 13th class, lieutenant general); Hwang In-su, former Deputy Defense Minister (KMA 12th class); Kim Man-ki, former Director of the Office of Supply (KMA 13th class, major general); and Choe Mun-kyu, chairman of the National Emergency Planning Committee (KMA 13th class, lieutenant general). Either by coincidence or otherwise, there is no retired four-star general as a member.

Puram Hwe

Unlike the Songpaek Hwe, its membership consists of retired army generals of the regular KMA graduates (from the 11th class) up to the 20th class. It was founded in February 1988 when the current Chairman Chong Ho-yong was defense minister. While Songpaek Hwe was founded before the presidential election [of the Sixth Republic], Puram Hwe was founded right before the Sixth Republic was launched. The timing made people think of it in relation to Songpaek Hwe. Currently, they have 243 members, which include almost all of the retired generals of the KMA graduates. The membership qualification is given to other non-general KMA graduates who served the rank of deputy-minister and above or the equivalent. The purpose of the organization written in the charter is to "promote friendship among the members and to contribute to the development of the KMA and the nation." Puram is named after the mountain behind the KMA campus and it boasts of having regular KMA graduates.

While Songpaek Hwe is active, Puram Hwe is quiet at present. They only have friendship meetings among the graduates of each class and an overall plan of this year is not yet prepared. It is presumably related to Chairman Chong's future direction. The only notable activity is a scholarship program for the members' children; they grant a scholarship of 500,000 won (about $800) to each of about 30 students every year. The membership fee is 10,000 won per month, which is same as the Songpaek Hwe.

Songpaek Hwe has their own office called Songpaek Planning in Nonhyon-tong, Kangnam-ku, whereas Puram Hwe has only a liaison office in Yoksam-tong.

General Secretary Yi Hae-yong (KMA 13th class, retired major general, facility director of the War Memorial Service) simply denied the political aspect and its competition with Songpaek Hwe by saying, "Just as every university has its alumni association, Puram Hwe is nothing but an alumni association," and "Many members are members of Songpaek Hwe as well."

Regardless of the characteristics of the meeting, Puram Hwe has many former Hana Hwe members, who led the 12 December coup, and ministers and deputy ministers, national assemblymen, ambassadors, presidents of government enterprises, which indicates the KMA graduates' brilliant advancement in the political and the social arenas.

They have too many former and current high-ranking government officials to list them all, including presidents. Former and current ministers are Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kim Shik, Communications Minster Yi U-chae, former Government Administration Minister Chang Ki-o, former Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Kim Chu-ho, and former directors of the Agency for National Security Planning, Chang Se-tong, An Mu-hyok, and Pak Se-chik. Among former and current senior Democratic Justice Party and national assemblymen are Yi Chun-ku, Yi Chong-chan, Kwon Ik-hyon, Pak Chun-pyong, Kwon Chong-tal, Chong Sun-tok, Choe Chang-yun, Chong Tong-ho, O Han-ku, Shin Che-ki and others. Other prominent names are Ho Hwa-pyong, former and current directors general of Presidential Security Force, An Hyon-tae and Yi Hyon-u, and president of Korea Coal Company, An Pil-chun.

Having such notable characteristics, the Puram Hwe gives an impression of avoiding any gossip, considering Chairman Chong's awkward political situation. His term as chairman ends in February 1990.

It cannot yet be determined that both the Songpaek Hwe and the Puram Hwe are organizations with political inclination and characteristics, nor can they be considered to be nonpolitcal organizations.

It is anticipated that the direction of the two organizations will become clear after the Fifth Republic's problems are cleared, and further after some political reshuffles or toward the beginning of the Seventh Republic.

Songu Hwe

On 29 November 1989, 189 retired generals from the Army, Navy, and Air Force had an originators' meeting of Songu Hwe, as a follow-up to the Songu Club, which was forcefully dissolved in December 1980. A general founding meeting is scheduled for 15 December. Retired four-star general Paek Son-yop is supposed to be nominated as chairman.

Although membership is open to any retired general, none of the regular KMA graduates are members. Therefore, as of now, it is like a meeting of former senior military generals.

Songu Hwe clearly declared in their founding objectives the protection of freedom and democracy.

The membership of Songu Club totaled about 700 when it was dissolved. Songu Hwe has a great potential for growing into the greatest retired generals' group and for becoming an influential right-wing organization.

Since the membership is open to the Army, Navy and Air Force, and there is no restiction for the graduation or the commission year, it is expected to expand its social influence by leading public opinion in the era of ideological confusion, rather than becoming politically inclined with close ties with certain political power groups.

Burma

Political Parties To Begin Broadcasting 12 Mar

BK0503090090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Rangoon, March 5 (AFP)—Burmese political parties will start broadcasting campaign speeches over state-owned radio and television beginning March 12 at the rate of two parties per day, party sources said here Monday [5 March]. Military authorities here issued election campaign rules on February 23 giving political parties access to the state media and allowing them to hold limited mass rallies ahead of the national polls, slated for May 27.

The General Election Commission said that more than 90 political parties presently registered to run in the elections would be fielding more than 2,000 candidates in Burma's first multi-party polls in almost 30 years. A party source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Monday that the election commission had so far told 10 parties that each could select a single party candidate or representative to give one 10-minute speech over state TV and one 15-minute address over state radio between March 12 and March 16.

The various political parties began applying for air time over state radio and TV soon after the announcement of campaign rules signed by General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), which took power here in September 1988 to curb nationwide pro-democracy protests. According to party sources, the deadline to apply for air time is Thursday, and political parties could say which week between now and April 31 they preferred, but the authorities would assign dates for each party. Fifteen copies of each speech, to be pre-recorded before being broadcast if passed, must be submitted with each application for air time, party sources said. Observers said most political parties here have opted to launch their public campaigns through the state media instead of through mass rallies primarily because of the advantages of low risk and high exposure. "The play-it-safe syndrome appeared to be rather dominant in most political parties who are reluctant to expose themselves to the rather risky business of a public mass rally especially under the prevailing conditions," one Western analyst said.

In a speech at City Hall here last week, Brigadier General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Rangoon Division Military Command, told local SLORC authorities that the right to assemble and campaign should not become an opportunity for "instigating disturbances" and specified strict security measures to prevent untoward incidents. "The election is drawing near and special security measures must be taken constantly," he warned. No details of the security measures were made public. Spokesmen of some leading political parties said they would continue to hold regular meetings on their own party premises and leave public mass rallies for later in the three-month campaign period. Most political parties expressed disappointment over the "restrictive nature of the campaign regulations." Military authorities, however, said the prohibitions and restrictions were aimed at assuring the election's success and to "discourage external and internal elements from attempting to disrupt it."

'Tens of Thousands' Reported Forcibly Resettled

BK2802141090 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 28 Feb 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] Western diplomats in Burma say that tens of thousands of Burmese have been forcibly resettled in recent months. They say that one of the motives of the government is vengeance against people who demonstrated against the military in 1988. The diplomats' allegations have been confirmed by a West German parliamentary delegation, which has been visiting Burma. Neil Kelly reports from Bangkok.

[Begin Neil Kelly recording] According to the leader of the delegation, Dr. (Frederich Voegel), chairman of the parliament Human Rights Committee, the resettlement is being carried out, as he put it, in a rather brutal way. Diplomats and Rangoon residents say that most of the victims are going to a new settlement north of the city, where electricity and water supply and other services are inadequate. Many residents of two other cities—Mandalay and Taunggyi—also are being moved. People are reported to have died and to have been made ill by the evictions, which have not been mentioned by the government-controlled media. The settlers are given land but must pay for the cost of the move themselves and also for their new dwellings. Families are also being forced to abandon shops, offices, and other places of work.

Government officials described those involved as illegal squatters. But families are being moved from places where they have lived for 30 and 40 years. The diplomats say that the government appears to have mixed motives for the evictions, including vengeance against districts which prominently opposed the military during the 1988 demonstrations. The evictions, which have destroyed entire neighborhoods, are also breaking up opposition strongholds. Many people, for instance, were driven out of the Rangoon suburb where the opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, was to have contested in the forthcoming elections, although now she has been banned from running. [end recording]

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

'Arafat Visits Capital; Meets With Leaders

Meets With Mahathir

BK0503144690 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat held productive talks during which the two sides expressed frank opinions on the situation in west Asia, especially in Palestine.

Dr. Mahathir met with Yasir 'Arafat in Lusaka, Zambia last week during talks with the black African leader, Nelson Mandela. Today, 'Arafat is in Kuala Lumpur in his capacity as the symbolic president of the state of Palestine. Considering the close ties between Malaysia and the PLO, Dr. Mahathir personally expressed Malaysia's strong and continuous support for the struggle of the Palestinian people, who have been opposing the Tel Aviv regime's aggression for the last two years.

During their two-hour talks, the PLO leader told Prime Minister Mahathir that for the last two years the atrocities committed by the Tel Aviv regime against Palestinians have increased, and Tel Aviv has even resorted to use of chemical weapons against Palestinians. A total of 56,000 Palestinians have been injured and another 6,500 have been disabled. Economically, Palestine has suffered the loss of about 2.3 billion ringgit.

Dr. Mahathir suggested the setting up of a cooperation network between Malaysia's national news agency, BERNAMA, and the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, to report on the actual situation in the west Asia region. For the moment, news reports published by Western news agencies are not balanced. Yasir 'Afarat agreed with the suggestion. Details of the cooperation program will be worked out by BERNAMA and the PLO embassy in Malaysia.

The migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories was also one of the main topics discussed at the talks. Yasir 'Arafat reiterated that the PLO will oppose the Tel Aviv regime's plan to resettle about 200,000 Soviet Jews in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. He also told Dr. Mahathir that the United Nations Security Council will probably hold a meeting at the end of the month to discuss the resettlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

On the west Asia peace plan proposed by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Yasir 'Arafat said that the plan is acceptable, but it should include the PLO's proposals. The plan touches on who could be eligible to join the Palestinian delegation at peace talks. The United States has proposed that the PLO delegation could include those who have been extradited and anyone who owns an apartment or is employed in Jerusalem.

Mahathir on Israeli 'Brutal Acts'

BK0603101790 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0940 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 6 (BERNAMA)—Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed Monday [5 March] criticised certain groups within and outside the country which claim to champion human rights but do not condemn the cruel acts of the Tel Aviv regime towards the Palestinians.

He said these groups often claimed that the Malaysian Government was oppressive but they closed their eyes to the brutal acts against Palestinian children and women by the Zionist regime.

Dr. Mahathir was addressing a Malaysia-Palestine unity rally attended by president of the state of Palestine Yasir 'Arafat at Stadium Negara [National Stadium] here. Cabinet ministers and chief ministers were among the 10,000 people present.

He said if what was happening in Palestine were to happen in Malaysia, these groups would certainly come down hard on the government. "But, have they been condemning Israel?" he asked.

Dr. Mahathir also questioned the double standard practice of these groups, saying it was obvious that they had some vested interests.

The prime minister described the struggle of the Palestinians as a fair cause. They were merely fighting for a self-rule nation without any intention of evicting the Jews or oppressing them, he said.

Defense Minister Expresses Support

BK0503142790 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Defense Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen today called on PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat at Carcossa [government guest house], the temporary resident of 'Arafat while in Malaysia.

According to Tengku Rithauddeen, the brief meeting was aimed at establishing closer ties between two close friends. Speaking to newsmen, Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen said that he had reiterated Malaysia's support of the struggle of the Palestinian people. Present at the meeting was Ahmad al-Farra, Palestinian representative in Malaysia.

Group Protest Soviet Emigration

BK0503085790 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0813 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 5 (BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement (ABIM) Monday [5 March] protested against the move by Soviet Union to allow the migration of some 300,000 Soviet Jews to Israel.

ABIM Secretary-General Haji Mohamed Anuar Tahir said the move clearly revealed the Soviet Government's callous attitude towards the Palestinian people though Moscow was said to be sympathetic towards the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

According to press reports, the Tel Aviv government plans to settle the Soviet Jews in the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Haji Anuar said the move, if it materialised, would see a repeat of the 1948 experience which led to the creation of Israel when millions of European Jews moved to Palestine. He added ABIM urges the Malaysian Government and non-governmental organisations to oppose the Soviet Union's intention while stressing unity between Malaysians and Palestinians in conjunction with Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Malaysia.

Comments on Jewish Immigration

BK0603074090 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0712 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 6 (BERNAMA)—Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Tuesday [6 March] he is against any migration of Jews to Israel unless a "lasting, peaceful settlement" of the Palestinian problem is achieved.

"I'm against any deportation [as received] for any Jews before a settlement (of the Palestinian question) because until now, nothing has been settled between Israel and the Palestinians," he told a news conference at Carcosa Seri Negara [government guest house] here.

"They (Israel) can't have the right to make any demographic change before a final, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful settlement," he said when questioned about Jewish immigration and resettlement in Israel's post-1967 borders.

The PLO has strongly opposed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement in January that the Soviet Jews, estimated to number 200,000, might be resettled in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said 'Arafat, who arrived Tuesday [as received] for a three-day visit.

The occupied territories were captured from Jordan and Egypt by Israel in the 1967 six-day war and is currently home to about 1.7 million Palestinian refugees.

Referring to the Soviet Jewish influx and Israel's granting of the right of return for any Jew to the Jewish homeland, he said "otherwise, we will also call other Muslims and Christians, who both have the right, to come and live in the Holy Land. Can Israel accept it?"

'Arafat claimed that Soviet Jewish immigration was to fulfil Tel Aviv's dream of a "greater Israel", stretching to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and parts of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, including Medina.

To prove his claim, the PLO leader held up an Israeli 10 agorot coin which he said, depicted a map of "greater Israel" on the back. "This is why they are sending new immigrants. To implement their dream for greater Israel," he added.

Describing the Soviet Jewish migration as a "massive transfer", he said they had the right to go to any country such as the United States, Australia, and Western Europe "except for Palestine."

Discusses Linking of News Agencies

BK0603085290 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The president of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, said today representatives of WAFA, the Palestinian news agency, will be in Kuala Lumpur soon to discuss the possible link up with the Malaysian national news agency, BERNAMA. Mr. 'Arafat said he agreed with Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed's proposal that both agencies enter into an arrangement to enable Malaysia to assist in furthering the Palestinian cause. He was speaking at the press conference in Kuala Lumpur in conjunction with his three-day official visit to Malaysia. Mr. 'Arafat said WAFA representatives would arrive soon to coordinate with BERNAMA and the Palestine embassy on details on the proposed link up.

In the meantime, the Palestine embassy in Kuala Lumpur will directly deal with BERNAMA on the matter. He said at present the embassy received daily news report from WAFA.

During talks with Mr. 'Arafat yesterday, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir has suggested that BERNAMA and WAFA enter into some formal arrangement to ensure Malaysians get a true picture of the Palestinian struggle.

Mr. 'Arafat said he is against the migration of Soviet Jews to Tel Aviv unless a lasting peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question is achieved. The Tel Aviv regime cannot have the right to make any demographic change before a final comprehensive, lasting, and peaceful settlement. He said this when questioned about Jews migration and resettlement in Tel Aviv's pre-1967 borders. Mr. 'Arafat claimed that Soviet Jews migration was to fulfill Tel Aviv's dream of a greater Israel stretching to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and part of Iraq and Saudi Arabia, including Medina.

Editorial Views Neighboring Country's 'Espionage'

BK0103115390 Kuala Lumpur BERITA HARIAN in Malay 12 Feb 90 p 10

[Editorial: "For the Sake of Nurturing Regional Relations"]

[Text] No country can exist without interdependence, whether in the field of economy, politics, or culture. Every nation and its people are influenced by others, and

they in turn can influence other nations. This creates balanced international relations which are unique yet complicated. As such, relations should be enhanced by a just and mutual respect. Various forms of conflicts have occured becuse of the disregard of the just principles of and respect for a nation and its people's right to exist. Such conflicts include cold wars, civil wars, and open wars waged against other nations.

In this connection we consider ourselves fortunate because the government which administrates our country has a comprehensive understanding of the importance of international relations. Since Malaysia achieved its independence 33 years ago, it has agreed to the principle of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries. We are proud that such a distinct attitude has attracted several countries to become our allies and good neighbors. Malaysia holds steadfastly to this commitment and its attitude has gained international recognition. Our country's special appointment to several esteemed international organizations, such as the United Nations Security Council, and its stand in international conferences on drug abuse are clear proof that Malaysia has gained international recognition. We are confident that we will be able to attract more friendly nations by continuously advocating such international relations.

One of the most important characteristics in maintaining an everlasting international relationship is self-confidence in development programs undertaken in the interest of the people and nation. The prosperity and development achieved by people should be constantly safeguarded against any imminent threat. Therefore, any activity which could jeopardize internal security should be stemmed. Hence, we cannot afford to neglect the characteristics of international relations especially when every race and nation is jointly involved in influencing the existence of a nation and its people. Therefore, we are aware that elements endangering Malaysians do not only come from within. We believe that various threats to our nation could decimate the existing peace and development achieved by the government for the people.

Thus, we realize that we cannot put our national security at risk and tip the balance of international relations. We should not interfere in the internal affairs of neighboring countries. We are aware that there are numerous benefits to be gained through cooperation with our neighbors. As such, we are most grateful that our leaders have prioritized our friends as the ASEAN countries, followed by the Islamic nations, and finally other countries.

It is undeniable that there are nations which do not agree with our views. The world is evolving quickly in the area of free trade. A nation competing for a large slice of the regional and international economic cake could turn a blind eye to the general principle of international relations and may even be willing to interfere in another country's internal affairs. Such a country could even resort to "espionage" activities in dealing with the development programs we have planned for our country and people. In such a case, we should be prepared to accept such a disrespectful act. This reaction would be in line with our concept of free world trade. Facing threatening situations in the competition for trade is a reality.

We strongly support the Ministry of Transport's decision to close our airspace to a neighboring country's flying club because that club had abused its special privilege. We do not want to impair the existing good relations by augmenting such an issue. It is sufficient to remain alert for any future "espionage" activities not only for security reasons, but also to avoid our economy from being sabotaged.

We should not allow ourselves to be embroiled in conflicts; if conflicts are inevitable, we should resolve them calmly and wisely.

Groups Reportedly Give False Information to ILO

BK0203053490 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0423 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 2 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Certain irresponsible groups, including trade unionists, have fed false information to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) about labour practices in Malaysia.

Malaysian Labour Minister Lim Ah Lek said Thursday [1 March] this had prompted the ILO to criticise Malaysia. He added that the government had sufficient proof that the groups had sent reports containing misinformation to the ILO. He declined to say what action the government would take against the groups.

He was commenting on Malaysia's recent denunciation of the ILO Convention 105, which seeks to abolish forced or compulsory labour, in protest against its accusations that Malaysia used forced labour.

The ILO's committee of experts had placed Malaysia on its watchlist and asked the government to amend certain laws, including the ISA [Internal Security Act] and Industrial Relations Act 1967. It also wants the government to exempt detainees under those laws from having to work during imprisonment.

Lim said he hoped to attend the ILO convention in June to explain Malaysia's case. He said the Malaysian Government would stay firm with its decision to denounce the convention which was adopted by the ILO in 1957 and ratified by Malaysia in 1958.

(The convention came into force in 1959, ratified by 103 member countries while 49 others did not. Singapore and Malaysia have denounced it).

Singapore

Army Generals on Defense Policies, Cooperation

BK0203103790 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] A trimmer army with the same firepower—that's how the SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] is tackling the problem of declining birth rates. This was revealed by Brig-Gen (Res) [Brigadier General, Reserves] Lee Hsien Loong and Lt-Gen [Lieutenant General] Winston Choo in separate interviews with an international military publication.

Among the changes: smaller but more flexible combat units supplied with equipment to produce the same firepower, though manned by fewer soldiers.

Brig-Gen Lee, who is Minister for Trade and Industry and Second Minister for Defence (Services) and Lt-Gen Winston Choo, Chief of the General Staff of the Singapore Armed Forces, touched on a wide range of topics in their interviews with the magazine, MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. These ranged from the island's defence policies to defence co-operation between ASEAN states. The West German publication, which has an international circulation, ran the interviews in a special issue in February.

One of the main points covered in the interviews was a trimmer and leaner SAF which could be expected in the near future. The declining birth rate in Singapore and the resultant drop in the number of males for national service has given impetus to the SAF's plans to review its manpower use.

Included in the upcoming changes are a trimming and re-structuring of the combat units. Trials have already been carried out in the SAF on how companies and battalions could be altered while maintaining total firepower and combat effectiveness. "The results have been very encouraging," said Lt-Gen Choo. But the number of active units in the SAF will remain the same, though they will be smaller.

To free more men for combat roles, the SAF has also engaged private companies to handle some of its activities. For example, catering has been partially handed over to civilian catering firms.

Automation is also one of the means being used by the SAF to maximise its use of manpower. For instance, through automation, the locally-developed FH-88 155mm howitzer that has been introduced into the SAF only needs eight gunners, compared to the 16 with the older models of 155mm howitzers.

The possibility of upgrading or replacing the F5E/Fs, the acquisition of maritime patrol aircraft, and the testing of tanks for possible purchase in the future were mentioned in the interviews.

It was revealed that the SAF was testing new armoured vehicles with a view to replacing the AMX-13s currently used by Singapore.

Commenting on ASEAN defence relations, Lt-Gen Choo said: "There should be greater defence co-operation between ASEAN states at a pace comfortable to everyone."

Asked if Singapore was willing to help other states in the region to repel aggression, Brig-Gen Lee said that Singapore was always willing to assist others in achieving an effective resolution through peaceful means. "Aggression only engenders further aggression and may not bring about any resolution," he said.

Brig-Gen Lee also gave a rundown on the basics of Singapore's defence policy which he said was founded on two principles—deterrence and diplomacy. Deterrence was attained through high operational readiness of its armed forces while diplomacy aimed at promoting good defence relations between other countries and Singapore.

About Singapore's defence industry, Brig-Gen Lee said it formed an important part of Singapore's total defence capability. "They are economically viable, and contribute to Singapore's deterrence," he said.

In the early years, Mindef [Ministry of Defense] absorbed 70 percent of the industries' output. This has dropped to the present level of 40 percent.

On the future growth of the defence industry, Brig-Gen Lee said the defence industries will have to look beyond the SAF. They would have to hold their own against well-established international companies by improving their capabilities and products, he added. "We cannot afford to subsidise them from public funds," he said.

1989 Annual Economic Survey Figures Released

BK0203130790 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Mar 90 p 44

[By Narendra Aggarwal]

[Text] The 9.2-percent expansion in the Singapore economy last year helped to boost government revenue which, coupled with reduced spending, yielded an overall surplus of $4.8 billion [Singapore dollars] at year-end.

The just-released 1989 Annual Economic Survey showed that last year the government raked in $15.5 billion in revenue, up 13 percent over 1988.

The economy's robust performance led to a 16-percent jump in tax revenue, while revenue from other sources went up by 7.1 percent.

On the spending side, the government last year spent 10 percent less than in the previous year. Its total expenditure fell from 1988's $11.9 billion to $10.7 billion. The

decline was mostly due to lower development expenditure, which was partly the result of the completion of major infrastructural development projects.

The 10 major statutory boards continued to do well. Their 1989 operating surplus came to $1.5 billion, compared with the previous year's surplus of $1.1 billion.

Tax revenue made up 62 percent of the government's total revenue last year. Income tax, motor vehicle taxes, customs and excise duties, and property tax were the main sources of tax revenue. Companies paid two-thirds of the total income tax, while the balance came from the individuals.

The good economic times resulted in a significant increase in various tax collections. Income tax revenue from companies and individuals rose by 27 percent; property tax revenue was up by 13 percent; customs and excise duties revenue by 13 percent; and motor vehicle tax revenue by a hefty 40 percent.

The government's revenue from other sources also increased—from $5.5 billion in 1988 to $5.9 billion last year.

Four-fifths of this revenue was investment income comprising mostly dividends from government holding companies and statutory boards, and interest on government investments. On the international balance of payments side, the country's overall surplus was $5.3 billion, much higher than 1988's $3.3 billion. Both current and capital accounts recorded higher surpluses last year.

Singapore's savings rate—already one of the highest in the world—rose a further 1.4 percentage points to reach 43 percent last year. The overall balance of payments surplus helped to raise total official foreign reserves to $39 billion at year-end. This was sufficient to finance about five months of imports at the current levels.

The economic survey showed that Singapore's current account surplus increased strongly by $1.9 billion to $4.6 billion last year. This was due to a sharp increase in net service receipts, which offset the effects of a slightly wider trade deficit.

Last year, the next inflow of direct foreign investments rose as high foreign investment commitments made in the past materialised.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Offers Compromise With Phnom Penh

BK0603013990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Phum Sareipheap, Cambodia—In an attempt to show more flexibility to work towards peace in Cambodia, Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced here yesterday that he is prepared to accept a partial dismantling of the Phnom Penh administration. The prince, speaking to a group of reporters for the first time since the Jakarta peace talks, said he was prepared to accept that Phnom Penh "maintain" part of its existing administration. China and the Khmer Rouge have demanded the total dismantling of the Phnom Penh government "from top to bottom," a demand which has been rejected by Vietnam and Phnom Penh.

During the meeting between Prince Sihanouk and Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen in Bangkok, the prince reportedly suggested that the Hun Sen government be "set aside," but this too was rejected by Mr Hun Sen. Emphasising that he was speaking only as leader of his faction, the prince said: "We should be more flexible. So I would like to propose the maintaining of part of the Hun Sen administration". Prince Sihanouk said Phnom Penh could retain control of all essential services such as post and telegraph, telephones, water, electricity and all other public works. The prince, however, said he would insist on the dismantling of the Phnom Penh political party apparatus. The prince said Phnom Penh's party apparatus in the villages in particular must be dismantled. If the party machine were allowed to remain, he said, the results of a general election were likely to be questionable. Another reason was that the Khmer Rouge, the strongest fighting force of the three resistance factions, "would send in their commandoes to kill".

While admitting that he was changing his position slightly, the prince said the Khmer Rouge and China would not accept his new stance. Prince Sihanouk said it was also likely that Phnom Penh would reject his proposal. He admitted he was taking "no risks" in advancing this new proposal since it was likely to be rejected by the concerned parties. "But we accept part of the (Hun Sen) administration. I speak on behalf of the ANS [National Sihanoukist Army] and FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]," the prince said.

Sihanouk Sees Thailand as Peacemaker in War

BK0503135290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1324 GMT 5 Mar 90

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Sereipheap, Cambodia, March 5 (AFP)—Thailand is now the key peacemaker in the Cambodian war as talks involving the superpowers have failed, resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here Monday [5 March]. He also said the Khmer Rouge, held responsible for hundreds of thousands of deaths during their rule of Cambodia from 1975 to 1979 and now the strongest militarily of three resistance factions, are gaining popularity and confidence inside the country. "I think that Thailand is really number one in the peace process. Only Thailand can oblige the unreasonable Cambodians," the prince said at Sereipheap (freedom) village, one kilometer (about half a mile) inside Cambodia.

The prince called for Thailand and other non-communist Southeast Asian countries to focus on bringing together China, which backs the Khmer Rouge guerrillas, and Vietnam, which supports the Phnom Penh government. "The stumbling block (to a settlement) is the dispute between China and Vietnam," he said as artillery fire thudded in the distance. Thailand should host "discrete" meetings in Bangkok joining the non-communist Southeast Asian nations, China and Vietnam in informal efforts to end the war, the prince said. Prince Sihanouk added that his next meeting with Phnom Penh government Prime Minister Hun Sen would be in Bangkok, but he did not give a date. The former monarch warned that fighting would continue following failed peace talks in Paris in August and Jakarta in February.

Prince Sihanouk, 68, considered central to any settlement in Cambodia, returned in February to this northwestern sector controlled by his forces, ending over a decade of exile since Vietnamese troops toppled his Khmer Rouge allies in January 1979. Adding to the guerrillas' claims that Hanoi lied about having withdrawn all its troops from Cambodia in September, he said the Phnom Penh army was now reinforced by up to 40,000 elite Vietnamese troops. The Vietnamese forces were mainly guarding the northwest cities of Battambang and Siem Reap, he charged. The prince, looking relaxed in a Mao-style khaki suit, told reporters they could not come further inside Cambodia to see his home since its location was secret for security reasons.

Prince Sihanouk said the Khmer Rouge are still needed if the guerrillas are to fight the Cambodian regime ruling from Phnom Penh. His comment comes amid growing Western concern over a Khmer Rouge drive to regain power. European Economic Community leaders have said the EEC may not support the guerrilla coalition's keeping Cambodia's seat at the United Nations, according to Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila. Prince Sihanouk said Chinese leaders, including strongman Deng Xiaoping, had guaranteed him the Khmer Rouge would not resume their "mad policy" if they regained power. But the prince said the Khmer Rouge had also refused to exile Pol Pot, who led their rule, saying they considered him as a "great patriot" who won the war against the United States.

The Khmer Rouge meanwhile are becoming more confident of both political and military success, the prince said. "The Khmer Rouge don't fear elections anymore" because they control wide areas, he said. He added that despite past abuses, the Khmer Rouge remained ultra-nationalists who appeal to Cambodian desire to be free of Vietnamese domination. Their position might allow them to win 40 seats in a 90-seat national assembly, he said. Prince Sihanouk said he was ready to make a key concession and not demand a "top to bottom" dismantling of the Phnom Penh regime, letting civil servants such as postal workers stay while having political officers in villages leave. But he said the Khmer Rouge would still demand the full dissolution of the Phnom Penh administration to make way for an interim administration joining all four Cambodian factions.

CPSU Control Commission Delegation Departs

BK0103110790 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0408 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 1 Mar (SPK)—The delegation of the CPSU Central Committee's Control Commission headed by Nizovtseva, member of the CPSU Central Committee and vice-chairman of the control commission, left Phnom Penh Wednesday [28 February] at the end of its three-day visit to Cambodia. During their stay, the Soviet guests held working sessions with the delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee's Control Commission headed by Sim Ka, alternate member of the Political Bureau and vice-chairman of the commission, and with the control commission of the Phnom Penh city party committee. They also visited the "Tuol Sleng" Museum of genocide, the former royal palace, and some economic and cultural centers in Phnom Penh.

Soviet Radio-TV Delegation Leaves 28 Feb

BK0403073790 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0357 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 4 Mar (SPK)—The radio and television delegation of the Soviet Union led by V.V. Fedorov, chairman of the State Committee for Radio and Television, left Phnom Penh last Wednesday at the end of a nine-day visit to Cambodia.

During its stay, the delegation had a working session with Kim Yin, a member of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and director general of Cambodian radio and television, and visited some economic and cultural establishments in Cambodia.

SPK Views Life in Svay Chek After Victory

BK0403131390 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1105 GMT 4 Mar 90

["Svay Chek After Government Forces' Victory"—SPK headline]

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 4—Life is returning to normal at Svay Chek, the district town of Thmar Puok in Banteay Meanchey Province, after the locality was liberated by the Cambodian People's Armed Forces on Feb. 23 from the occupation by Sonsannian troops. Svay Chek is located about 20 km northwest of Sereisaophoan (Sisophon) provincial town of Banteay Meanchey bordering Thailand's Aranyaprathet or 400 km (240 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh. From the time of the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers in September last year to late February 1990, the locality was repeatedly subjected to heavy shellings by the three Khmer reactionary groups, the genocidal Polpotist criminals, the so-called Son Sann's "Khmer People's

National Liberation Front", and Prince Sihanouk's "Armee Nationale Sihanoukistes", all cobbed together under the signboard of "the coalition of Democratic Kampuchea".

Svay Chek was pounded by 300 to 500 mortar shells a day which caused extensive losses of lives, property, means of production and cattle to the local inhabitants. During the Khmer reactionary troops' temporary occupation 40 percent of the 11,147 dwelling houses were burnt down or set ablaze and many school buildings, bridges, public facilities and peasants' granaries were destroyed.

Toch Non, in her 60's, a native of Kvay, Svay Chek Commune, was too deeply grieved to say anything in front of her house and crops which had been completely devastated by the Sonsannians and Sihanoukists. When she was able to calm down, she recalled that when the place was occupied by enemy troops, they engaged in wanton destruction of the villagers' property and violated any woman they could lay hold on. Now, the villagers are resettling in the locality and reembarking on a new life with the assistance of the local authorities

Bo An, deputy secretary of the district party committee, said that despite many difficulties ahead, the local authorities are doing their best to bring life back to normal for the local people. "We are determined to firmly defend the locality and keep the brutes off," he said. According to him, during the period of fighting at Svay Chek which ended on Feb. 23, 1990, the government forces killed on the spot 27 enemy troops, wounded 130 others, and captured 12. They also seized 3,000 assorted guns and 100 tonnes of ammunition, and destroyed two vehicles.

VONADK Summarizes Military Activities

BK0503061590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Roundup of military activities in February]

[Text] 1. East Kompong Cham battlefield: We killed 18 enemy soldiers and wounded 21 others. Total: 39 casualties. We dismantled administrative networks of the Vietnamese enemy in 11 villages and a commune.
2. Kratie battlefield: seven of the enemy killed and nine others wounded. Total: 16 casualties. Administrative networks in 24 villages were dismantled and 62 local officials and 14 Cambodian soldiers freed.
3. Northwest Phnom Penh: 18 enemy soldiers killed and 15 others wounded. Total: 33 casualties. Administrative networks in 12 villages dismantled and 44 local officials freed.
4. Kompong Speu battlefield: 13 enemy soldiers killed and 16 others wounded. Total: 29 casualties. Administrative networks in 16 villages and a commune dismantled and 26 local officials freed.
5. Kompong Chhnang battlefield: 21 enemy soldiers killed and 27 others wounded. Total: 48 casualties. Administrative networks in 34 villages and a commune dismantled and 40 local officials and 31 Cambodian soldiers freed.
6. Kompong Cham battlefield: 31 enemy soldiers killed and 47 others wounded. Total: 78 casualties. Administrative networks in 36 villages and three communes dismantled and 95 local officials and two Cambodian soldiers freed.
7. Stung Treng battlefield: five enemy soldiers killed and six others wounded. Total: 11 casualties. Administrative networks in three villages dismantled.
8. Mondolkiri battlefield: five enemy soldiers killed and eight others wounded. Total: 13 casualties.
9. Battlefield around Battambang town: 75 enemy soldiers killed and 99 others wounded. Total: 174 casualties. Administrative networks in seven villages and a commune dismantled and five local officials freed.
10. Kompong Som battlefield: 28 enemy soldiers killed and 23 others wounded. Total: 51 casualties. Administrative networks in 17 villages dismantled and 13 local officials and two Cambodian soldiers freed.
11. Kompong Thom battlefield: 50 enemy soldiers killed and 69 others wounded. Total: 119 casualties. Administrative networks in 81 villages, seven communes, and a township dismantled and 135 local officials and 35 Cambodian soldiers freed.
12. Siem Reap battlefield: 66 enemy soldiers killed and 83 others wounded. Total: 149 casualties. Administrative networks in 43 villages and five communes dismantled and 150 local officials and two Cambodian soldiers freed.
13. Moung-Pursat battlefield: 29 enemy soldiers killed and 40 others wounded. Total: 69 casualties. Administrative networks in 31 villages dismantled and two local officials freed.
14. Takeo-Kampot battlefield: 104 enemy soldiers killed and 156 others wounded. Total: 260 casualties. Administrative networks in 37 villages, four communes, and a township dismantled and 138 local officials freed.
15. Southwest Phnom Penh battlefield: 75 enemy soldiers killed and 128 others wounded. Total: 203 casualties. Administrative networks in 56 villages, four communes, and a township dismantled and 127 local officials and 17 Cambodian soldiers freed.
16. North Phnom Penh battlefield: 22 enemy soldiers killed and 18 others wounded. Total: 40 casualties. Administrative networks in 44 villages and three communes dismantled and 151 local officials freed.
17. Koh Kong Kraom battlefield: five enemy soldiers killed and six others wounded. Total: 11 casualties. Administrative networks in five villages dismantled and two local officials freed.
18. Preah Vihear battlefield: 35 enemy soldiers killed and 11 others wounded. Total: 46 casualties. Administrative networks in five villages dismantled and 16 local officials freed.
19. North Sisophon battlefield: 140 enemy soldiers killed and 182 others wounded. Total: 322 casualties. Administrative networks in 24 villages and two communes dismantled and 90 local officials and 25 Cambodian soldiers freed.

20. South Sisophon battlefield: 33 enemy soldiers killed and 46 others wounded. Total: 79 casualties.
21. Route 10 battlefield: 181 enemy soldiers killed and 150 others wounded. Total: 331 casualties.
22. Leach and Koh Kong Leu battlefield: 16 enemy soldiers killed and 10 others wounded. Total: 26 casualties.

In sum, we killed 977 enemy soldiers and wounded 1,170 others for a total of 2,147 casualties; dismantled administrative networks of the Vietnamese enemy in 486 villages, 36 communes, and three townships; and freed 1,096 local officials and 246 Cambodian soldiers.

Captured SRV Soldier Reports Plan on Pailin

BK0403112190 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 3 Mar 90

["Special report on the answers of a Vietnamese soldier captured on the Route 10 battlefield"—read by announcer]

[Text] During fighting between 24 and 28 February, our national resistance forces captured 18 Vietnamese soldiers, including 11 who were slightly or seriously wounded. Following is the essence of the answers of a Vietnamese soldier captured on the battlefield west of Route 10. Here is the Vietnamese soldier's statement:

1. My name is (Lam Ngoc Chau), aged 21 and single.
2. I left Ha Tien, south Vietnam, by boat to the border and from there by car along Route 3 and Route 5, arriving in Battambang on 15 February 1990.
3. There were 1,200 Vietnamese soldiers with me.
4. I spent two nights in Battambang after which I was sent to Vietnam's 4th Division. I was then dispatched to Sdau on Route 10. After seven days in Sdau, 4th Division troops started their offensive.
5. The offensive troops are Vietnamese, comprising the 330th, 309th, and 339th Divisions and the 4th Division, to which I belong. As far as I know, Cambodian soldiers also took part in this offensive, but I do not how many men and from which divisions. I do know that there are 300 Cambodian soldiers from the 4th Division coming to join my 4th Division.
7. [number as heard] The plan, according to my superiors, is to seize Pailin in order to raise the prestige of the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen troops during negotiations in Jakarta, Paris, and other places.
8. As far as I know, nearly all Cambodian soldiers have deserted despite efforts by Vietnamese troops to arrest them.
9. I know that two-thirds of Vietnam's 330th, 339th, 309th, and 4th Divisions were withdrawn to Vietnam in September and October 1989. The remaining troops were left on the Battambang and Pursat battlefields. In January and February 1990, the withdrawn troops all came back to launch the Route 10-Pailin battlefield offensive.
10. As far as I know, there is a clear plan to take Pailin. In the past four or five days of fighting, nearly all Cambodian soldiers have deserted the Vietnamese troops and the battlefields. The morale of the majority of Vietnamese soldiers is low because they have all been forced to fight.

Note: This evidence from the Vietnamese soldier named (Lam Ngoc Chau) clearly shows that the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors have not withdrawn their troops from Cambodia. Troops were left behind to continue committing aggression against and to occupy Cambodia in the disguise of puppet troops. Furthermore, when the puppets were repeatedly routed by the national resistance forces, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy brought in their troops to commit aggression against Cambodia. One day, we will present these recently captured Vietnamese war prisoners to the world in order to show the hideous, stinking face of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets and lackeys, Hun Sen and Heng Samrin.

VONADK on 1,000 SRV Troops to Sisophon

BK0403014790 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] The Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and exterminators of the Cambodian race have sent a total of 1,000 aggressor troops from their 5th Division to Sisophon [Battambang Province]. These troops have been deployed as follows:

1. 500 soldiers in Preah Net Preah;
2. 100 at Phnum Kangva hill;
3. 200 at Sala Krau; and
4. 200 at Svay Chek.

These troops are from Vietnam's 5th Division. Some of them have been stationed on Route 6; others have been withdrawn and hidden further east. When they launched their offensive against Svay Chek, they brought the troops east of Route 6 to dupe people and launch an offensive against Svay Chek.

VONADK on SRV Troops to Preah Vihear

BK0403015090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] On 17 February, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors brought genuine Vietnamese troops and hid them at the foot of Phnum Tbeng hill near Tbeng Meanchey provincial seat [Preah Vihear Province]. A part of these troops belongs to Vietnam's 315th Division and another to the 307th Division in the 5th Military Region. These two units used to operate in Preah Vihear and Choam Khsan. Since September to October 1989, 300 of these troops have been stationed at Tbeng Meanchey to assist the puppet troops; another part of these forces has been hidden in Prey Lang forest near Siem Bok and in the forest east of Kaoh Sampeay near Stung Treng provincial seat. When the remaining puppet

troops cannot oppose the national resistance forces, the Vietnamese enemy called their troops hidden in the east to hide themselves near Tbeng Meanchey and operate in areas which have been liberated by the national army since October 1989.

800 Soldiers, 5 Tanks Reported

BK0503005290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] On 17 February, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors brought 800 fresh Vietnamese troops wearing puppet soldiers' uniforms and five T-54 tanks from Vietnam along national Route 19, across the Mekong River, to Thalabarivat [Stung Treng Province] and then along Chhep Road to Preah Vihear provincial seat. These fresh Vietnamese soldiers brought by the Hanoi Vietnamese clique remained silent during their trip and during stops at marketplaces because they were afraid that our people would know they are Vietnamese.

Three Cambodian Battalions Said 'Revolted'

BK0403021590 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpt] On 27 February, three battalions of Cambodian soldiers, the 2d, 3d, and 9th of the 179th Division, revolted against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and refused to enter the battlefield. A number of them joined our Cambodian national resistance forces; others fled home. [passage omitted]

Communists Blamed for Failure of Jakarta Talks

BK0603074590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Political commentary by Khuon Khemarin: "The Obstacle to the Cambodian Solution"]

[Text] The Heng Samrin communist infrastructure is the question that is guaranteed to bring deadlock to any talks aimed at solving the Cambodian conflict. Now, this question has caused a deadlock again. There were some dissenting views on a number of questions at the recent Jakarta informal meeting, but obviously, the most radical one remained the same: Hun Sen and Vietnam refused to let go of the Vietnamese-installed communist infrastructure. The noncommunist Cambodian resistance movement and the ASEAN countries, France, and Australia tried to make the Heng Samrin regime and Vietnam agree to a correct and fair solution for Cambodia, that is, to allow the Cambodian people to hold free elections. However, Hun Sen—representative of the Heng Samrin regime—and Vietnam—the creator of this regime—worked hard to make all countries involved agree to a solution that would have the Cambodian people hold the elections under the communist regime.

The cause of the deadlock came from the fact that Vietnam and Hun Sen rejected a solution that would allow the Cambodian people to hold elections under the correct and fair aegis of the United Nations. On the contrary, Vietnam and Hun Sen tried to push other countries into accepting a solution that would have the Cambodian people decide their own destiny under a communist regime bereft of freedom. This is proof that Nguyen Co Thach and Hun Sen continue to play tricks with the international community concerning the Cambodian problem. Nguyen Co Thach and Hun Sen have never had any genuine goodwill to solve the Cambodian problem. They only try to filch the goodwill of the Cambodian resistance movement, ASEAN, France, and Australia which sincerely want to solve the Cambodian problem.

In reality, the Australian proposal is a necessary instrument for testing the presence of the sincerity of Hun Sen and Vietnam—the boss of the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen group. Not long ago, Hun Sen and Nguyen Co Thach raised the question of Khmer Rouge participation in an interim quadripartite government as an obstacle to the dissolution of the Vietnamese-installed communist regime in Phnom Penh. However, the latest Australian peace proposal called for placing Cambodia under UN trusteeship. This was a direct process toward free elections without power-sharing between Cambodian factions. Still, Hun Sen refused to dissolve the Vietnamese-installed Heng Samrin communist infrastructure. How could a free and fair election be held under a communist regime? Though it was claimed that the United Nations would be permitted to supervise, since the powers would remain in the hands of the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen group, that is, in the hands of the Hanoi authorities, the United Nations would not be able to organize fair elections for the Cambodian people to decide their own destiny at all.

The noncommunist Khmer resistance movement fully supports any peace solution that would open the way for the Cambodian people—the masters of the country—to really exercise self-determination. It however resolutely opposes any solution that would force the Cambodians to live under the Vietnamese-satellite communist regime bereft of freedom. The objective of the Khmer resistance is to achieve independence and freedom for Cambodia and freedom for Cambodian citizens. This is our unshakable goal that we will never forfeit.

Hun Sen Relatives Accused of 'Plundering'

BK2002032490 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Clearly realizing that the puppets' riel bank notes are worthless and have only the value of cheap paper, on 2 and 4 February, relatives of the one-eyed Hun Sen, Vietnam's puppet and lackey, took two carloads of riel bank notes from Phnom Penh to exchange for gold with our people along the Mekong riverbank, such as at Prek Sangke, Peam Kroesna Village, Stoeng Trang, and Kompong Cham Town. The relatives of the one-eyed

puppet Hun Sen have a lot of riel bank notes because they have been plundering and robbing our people in Phnom Penh at will. Now, they want to exchange this worthless money to dupe our people in the rural areas as well. However, our people in Kompong Cham Town, Prek Sangke, Peam Kroesna, and Stoeng Trang are well aware of this. Therefore, they have revolted and opposed the puppet Hun Sen's relatives in order to stop them from plundering and robbing our people's gold.

Laos

Paper Reports MIA Remains, ID Card Found

BK0603065890 Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai 4 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] The remains of a U.S. pilot whose aircraft was downed in Laos are worth as much as 65 million baht. A Lao citizen found the aircraft wreckage on a hill and an identification card of a captain. For fear of being cheated, he asked a [Thai] police general to act as his representative to claim a financial reward from the United States.

At 2200 on 2 March, Police Major General Chanan Chanamai, commander of the provincial police region 5 in Ubon Ratchathani, introduced Phoumi Phounsiri, a 32-year-old resident of 30/4 Phonthoung village, Pakse District, Champassak Province, Laos, to newsmen at the provincial police regional office. Phoumi told newsmen he discovered the wreckage of a U.S. military aircraft on a mountain in the jungle in Attopeu, Champassak Province about 2 years ago. Out of curiosity, he searched the plane and found human bones and an identification card belonging to Air Force Captain Gary Anthony Chavez. There were no other valuables. He kept the bones, which weighed about 200 grams, and the identification card, No. 100-34-23858FA.

Phoumi said that about seven or eight days ago he heard news about volunteers who were searching for Americans missing in action [MIA's] after they got air balloons and plastic bags containing money for information on the MIA's streaming down the Mekong River. He also learned that Lao soldiers arrested some Caucasian volunteers searching for MIA's but later released them. After learning about the financial reward being offered for remains of MIA's, Phoumi consulted Phin Soukantangchai, chairman of the Mai Singsamphan Village Administration in Sanasomboun District, Champassak Province, who in turn suggested that he contact his relative, Manasai Soukantangchai, who lived in Thailand at 480 Sathonmak Road, Warin Chamrap District, Ubon Ratchathani Province.

Phoumi authorized Manachai to contact the MIA Joint Casualty Resolution Center at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. As a result, William R. Gadoury, an official of the center, visited Manasai at his house. Phoumi was not at Manasai's house at the time because he had returned to Laos. Manasai demanded $2.4 million in reward. He and the U.S. official could not agree because the latter wanted to give the reward to Phoumi directly. Subsequently, Manasai contacted relatives of Capt. Chavez in Chicago for the reward. Manachai's action caused Phoumi to suspect his moves. A few days ago, Phoumi contacted Manasai for the remains and identification card, but Manasai refused to return them, giving various excuses.

As a result, Phoumi contacted Bunma Wanphen, a 51-year-old relative living in Khong Chiam District, Ubon Ratchathani. Bunma led Phoumi to Pol. Maj. Gen Chanan, who summoned Manachai for questioning. Manasai eventually returned the remains to Phoumi the same night. Phoumi asked Maj. Gen Chanan to safeguard the remains and the identification card and act as his representative to contact the center for the reward, the amount of which he has not fixed. Phoumi also disclosed that other people have found wreckages and human bones in Sekong Province, which is situated near the Vietnamese border. He did not know if people had already claimed rewards for these findings.

Maj. Gen. Chanan told newsmen that he was willing to represent Phoumi because he knew that the U.S. Administration wanted information about MIA's. He had telephoned Police Director General Gen Sawaeng Thirasawat and Lieutenant General Bunthin Wongrakmit, commander of the provincial police region 2, on the matter. Asked why the U.S. official refused to give the reward to Manachai but insisted on giving it directly to Phoumi, Chanan said it could be that the center wanted the reward to serve as an incentive for Lao people to search for the remaining MIA's.

PASASON Articles Discuss Work of Party

Building Work, Members' Role

BK0103054590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Feb 90

[PASASON article, date not given: "Step Up Consolidation and Construction of Party Organization, Increasingly Enhance Exemplary Leading Role of Party Members"]

[Text] Respected listeners: Organization is considered the essence of a party; it serves as the material strength. By maintaining only an ideology without a firm organization for strict regulations and discipline, a party cannot gain strength. For this reason, in building a party, attention must be paid not only to the work in the ideological and political fields, but also to the organizational field.

The content for the building of the party in the organizational field for the present is to broaden democratic practice in adopting the line, plans, and policies of the party. Its purposes are to guarantee achievement of the

subjective and scientific characteristics; exploit the intelligence of the entire party and people; guarantee achievement of democratic centralism and the collective leadership characteristics; promote and expand the intelligence and creative capabilities of each individual and party member in order to seek (?materials); and then adopt a resolution, organize to strictly implement the resolution, and carry out the control and supervision of the implementation. Simultaneously, self-criticism and criticism must be positively carried out in a straightforward and creative manner. Commendation must be conveyed in accordance with the class attitudes and new line of thinking. This means that the party must be built along the path of alliance of workers, peasants, intellectuals, and students on the basis of coming from the people, by the people, and for the people.

The main point at the present is to consolidate and build the party foundations in the organizational field by combining activities of party units and members with movements in performing the task of turning to the grass roots; and by restructuring the management mechanism by setting more clearly the leadership role and responsibilities of the party and the management role and responsibilities of the state, setting the relationship between the party and state and various mass organizations to avoid working by relying on others, doing a favor, and interfering in one another's business—the way of working which is considered a great obstacle to the implementation of the line and policies of the party and state. The building of the party in the organizational field is also related to the task of raising the working efficiency of party members in the new stage. The main purpose of this matter is to enable party members to maintain revolutionary qualifications and leading characters and to serve as an example for the people in translating into reality the line and policies of the party, plans and laws of the state. The purpose is also to raise the level of the party members' knowledge and understanding in the socioeconomic field, laws, and work under their responsibility, and to help them firmly maintain the revolutionary nature and not be misled into accepting a buying-off of (?schemes) [words indistinct].

To fulfill the line of consolidating, building, and strengthening the party in all respects, in the field of expanding the party, it is necessary to increase control of the acceptance of the masses as party members. Qualifications of those who are accepted as new party members must meet the standard of party members in the new stage. This means the number of party members must be increased along the alliance path of workers, peasant, intellectuals, and students. Those whose fail to maintain the qualifications must be resolutely removed from the ranks of the party.

Outline of 1990 Tasks

BK0603051590 Vientiane PASASON in Lao 1 Mar 90 p 1

[Article: "Major Tasks of the Party in 1990"]

[Text] To prepare for the convening the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and to triumphantly implement the plan for 1990—which is the last year of the second state plan—are the two major tasks which must be carried out in 1990. These two tasks are closely linked in our efforts to more profoundly carry out restructuring in our country to create new fundamental factors for revolution in the new period.

Work in convening a party congress is normally divided into three levels: the provincial and city municipal level, the district and grass-roots party unit level, and the convening of the fifth party congress attended by delegates from all over the country. This is more or less a mobilization of a revolutionary movement in the entire party, army, and masses throughout the country, aimed at broadening the scope of restructuring and at creating fundamental factors for and a sense of revolutionary enthusiasm among the people in all localities throughout the country.

First of all, preparations to convene the fifth party congress made at the provincial and municipal level and the district and grass-roots party unit level must be carried out in the spirit of restructuring to ensure that an appropriate level of democracy is realistically applied at each grass-roots locality. The compilation of a political report must be made with the spirit of reality of the party leadership in each grass-roots locality as well as the spirit of self-criticism and mutual criticism conducted in a reasonable, frank, and strict manner to ensure that unity is maintained and that an excellent way out is created. To fulfill this task, leading cadres at all levels must firmly grasp and clearly assess the situation, conduct a profound analysis on the causes of weak and strong points in the party leadership, the management by the administration, and the roles of mass organizations in society.

In holding elections to select new party committees at various levels, consideration must be given to the special characteristics of each locality, such as its population, quality, and structure. However, they must be conducted primarily in accordance with the established standard to ensure that those elected to the party committees are outstanding and model leading party members who also genuinely possess capability and a sense of responsibility toward work, pursue a new line of thinking, maintain a sense of creativeness, and are energetic in fulfilling the

resolution on carrying out restructuring. Only faithful persons from the ranks of party members and masses should be elected to the party committees.

In carrying out this task, efforts must be made to avoid writing an old-style political report which has frequently been referred to as a flowery report because it tried to conceal weak points and mistakes. An assessment of the performance of the previous party committees must be conducted while the detailed orientation of new tasks should be outlined on the basis of the spirit of appreciating the new thinking, aimed at resolving the most urgent problems in each grass-roots locality. However, this process must be thoroughly carried out under genuinely democratic conditions within the party and among the masses.

Though there are many other major tasks which must be undertaken by the party in 1990, the most urgent and important one is consolidation of the party leadership. The party is entrusted with a specific project in 1990, that is to conduct party activities and to convene party conferences at various levels in accordance with the resolution adopted at the conference on organizational work held on 25 January 1990, which says: Preparations to convene the fifth party congress and the implementation of other important tasks in 1990 are two major programs of action which are closely related, aimed at mobilizing the people to implement the 1990 plan.

Khamtai Siphandon Greets GDR on Army Day

BK0603052390 Vientiane Domestic in Lao 0430 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] On the 34th founding anniversary of the People's National Army [PNA] of the GDR, Comrade General Khamtai Siphandon, national defense minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], sent a congratulatory message to Comrade General Theodor Hoffmann, national defense minister of the GDR, in Berlin. The message reads:

Respected Comrade Minister, on the occasion of the 34th founding anniversary of the PNA of the GDR, on behalf of all officers and soldiers in the entire Lao People's Army [LPA] and in my own name, I would like to extend our warm salutations and most intimate wishes to you, comrade, and, through you, to all officers and men in the fraternal PNA of the GDR. The LPA and Lao people would like to express our wholehearted thanks to the army and people of the GDR for constantly rendering great support and assistance to the Lao revolution. I hope that the relations of friendship, fraternal militant solidarity, and cooperation between the peoples and armies of the LPDR and the GDR will be further strengthened to gradually become more fruitful. May the PNA of the GDR score new greater victories in fulfilling the tasks of national defense and construction in the new period. May you, Comrade Minister, have good health and score greater achievements in fulfilling your esteemed and noble duties.

Meeting on River Cooperation With Thailand

BK0303142290 Vientiane KPL in English 0926 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Vientiane, March 3 (KPL)—A meeting was held here yesterday between a Lao delegation led by Indavong, deputy-minister of communications, transport, post and construction, and a Thai delegation headed by Somchit Chunlaphong, vice-governor of Nong Khai Province, to discuss cooperation on sand dredging and improvement of the barge channel between Lao Tha Naleng Port and Thai Nong Khai Port.

The sand dredging will be conducted in the riverbeds at the two ports to ensure rapid passage of barges and other cargos during the dry season. In 1988, the dredging work took 79 days, excavating about 36,979 cubic metres of sand.

The sides during their two-day talks were also reviewing their two-previous-years' operations in hydrology and barge-channel maintenance, the main work to be executed immediately this year.

The meeting for the purpose has been held every year since 1978.

Protocol on Goods Exchange Signed With Bulgaria

BK1902112690 Vientiane KPL in English 0919 GMT 19 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb. 19 (KPL)—A protocol on goods exchange and clearing for 1990 was on February 16 signed here between Laos and Bulgaria.

Signing the protocal were, for the Lao Government, Thongphachan Sonnasin, head of cabinet of the ministry of trade and foreign economic relations, and for the Bulgarian Government, Konstantin Filen, director general of the Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations.

Mr. Sompadit Volasan, deputy-minister of the said Lao ministry and Mrs. Lilyana Ivanova Vasileva, Bulgaria's ambassadress to Laos witnessed the ceremony.

The protocol provides that in 1990 Bulgaria will export to Laos goods such as medicines, medical equipment, electric devices and household utensils, and Laos will export to Bulgaria such goods as coffee, peanuts, wooden articles and other crafts, and wood produce.

Philippines

Platt at Golf Club When Bomb Threat Received

HK0603092390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 6 Mar 90

[By Jennifer Postigo]

[Text] There was commotion among golfers, which included U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt, at the Manila

Golf and Country Club in Forbes Park, Makati, yesterday, when an employee received a bomb threat. The threat is allegedly the fifth registered threat after wives of rich businessmen who live in the area launched a protest in front of the Senate against the special treatment for Senator Enrile. Ambassador Platt was immediately surrounded by his security men, but Platt reportedly was not at all scared by the incident. A bomb disposal unit arrived from Fort Bonifacio but found no bomb in the area.

Aquino Continues To Oppose Taiwan Recognition

HK0203074990 Quezon City MALAYA in English 1 Mar 90 p 2

[Text] President Aquino yesterday vowed to continue opposing any congressional move giving political recognition to Taiwan as a separate state. Mrs Aquino issued the statement in the wake of congressional initiatives aimed at encouraging stronger economic ties with Taiwan, which the Philippines considers a mere province of the People's [Republic of] China.

The President said the country's economic and business relations with the Taiwanese people are not violative of the "One China" policy. She noted that Chinese leaders have told her that they would not oppose commercial ties between the Philippines and Taiwan. Any reaction from the executive branch about a congressional bill on Taiwan would therefore depend on how the legislation is worded, Mrs Aquino said.

"There should be no political recognition of Taiwan as a separate state, expressly or impliedly," she added.

Because of the difficulties encountered in getting the Taiwan bill approved by Congress and Malacanang, some members of the House of Representatives have begun seeking other ways of making the measure more acceptable.

Bilateral Trade Pact Signed With China

HK0203120990 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] The Philippine Government and China have signed a $400 million bilateral trade agreement for this year. This was revealed by (Charles Jose), vice consul for trade at the Philippine Embassy in Beijing. (Jose) said bilateral trade for 1989 slightly exceeded $300 million. He explained that the figure was down from the previous year because of China's austerity program launched in September of 1988 to curb runaway inflation. Among the measures was the restriction of imports.

More Developments, Reaction in Cagayan Situation

Aquino Wants 'All Force' Used

HK0503103790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0800 GMT 5 Mar 90

[By Dick Sinchiongco of Mobile Unit 6]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has directed the Armed Forces of the Philippines to use all force to capture the suspended and fugitive Cagayan governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo. At the same time, the chief executive reiterated the need to safeguard the civilians during the military operation against Aguinaldo. Assistant Press Secretary Lourdes Sitiangco reads the president's statement:

[Begin recording in English] I have instructed the Armed Forces to carry out the arrest order against suspended Governor Aguinaldo, using such forces as necessary, but taking all feasible measures for the safety of civilians. [end recording]

Mrs Aquino made the statement after her pledge that the government will not allow the killers of Civil Relations Service Chief Brigadier General Oscar Florendo to go scot-free. Based on initial reports, the fugitive governor's followers killed Florendo when he was held hostage in Hotel Delfino, several hours before the assault.

De Villa Suspends Colonel Bawagan

HK0503103590 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 5 Mar 90

[By Jonathan Cristobal]

[Text] Armed Forces chief of staff General Renato de Villa has ordered a thorough investigation of the Tuguegarao incident, in which Civil Relations Chief Brigadier General Oscar Florendo was killed, while helping authorities serve an arrest warrant on suspended Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo. De Villa also suspended a high-ranking military official detailed in the province, who is suspected of supporting Aguinaldo. He identified the official as Colonel Mateo Bawagan, the commanding officer of the 501st Brigade of the Philippine Army which is under the 5th Infantry Division. Bawagan's brigade is based in Alcala town, in between Gattaran, Aguinaldo's bailiwick, and Tuguegarao. De Villa temporarily assigned Colonel Alfonso Pagurangan, chief of staff of the 5th Infantry Division, as Bawagan's replacement, while he undergoes investigation.

According to De Villa, Bawagan was spotted in Tuguegarao at the height of the Hotel Delfino incident, instead of staying put in Alcala to supervise his troops. The

official reportedly offered to negotiate for Aquinaldo's troops, and at the same time allowed the passage of Aguinaldo's troops, from Gattaran to Tuguegarao, through his area of jurisdiction:

[Begin recording in English] [De Villa] I have ordered the relief of Colonel Bawagan, the commander of the 501st brigade of the Philippine Army based in Alcala, that is between Gattaran and Tuguegarao. I have ordered the 5th Infantry Division commander General Dizon to appoint a new commander and this commander is Colonel Pagurangan. The chief of staff of the 5th division has taken over as the brigade commander of the 501st brigade.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[De Villa] In so far as the immediate cause is concerned, I felt that he did not perform according to my expectations. He also had (denied) all these problems in Hotel Delfino. He also appeared, according to our field commanders, in the area and offered himself to negotiate for Rudy Aguinaldo. When I heard this, I learned that there is a (mole in the staff). I ordered him to report to General Dizon for investigation.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[De Villa] Not necessarily. This is purely a command matter.

[Reporter] [Passage indistinct]

[De Villa] I think he is wrong. In the middle of an operation, that is not his role. His role is to be there in Alcala to supervise his brigade and not go to Tuguegarao and be something else.

[Reporter] Wouldn't his being in Alcala be to help Aguinaldo?

[De Villa] We still have to establish why... [changes thought] I think somebody should ask the question why Aguinaldo was able to move from Gattaran all the way down to Tuguegarao, when that area is his area of responsibility. [end recording]

Several Officers Urge Martial Law

HK0503103990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0800 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Several top military officials asked President Corazon Aquino to declare martial law after General Oscar Florendo was killed by the followers of suspended Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo yesterday. Some active generals, who requested not to be identified, asked for the declaration of martial law so that the Armed Forces can use its iron hand to fight national security threats. The generals also said that General Florendo's slaying is a direct manifestation of some person's lack of respect for the law. They added that this is the chance for President Aquino to act with reason in relation to the incident.

'Mutinous Soldiers' Captured

HK0503075390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0531 GMT 5 Mar 90

[By Cecilia Quiambao]

[Text] Tuguegarao, Philippines, March 5 (AFP)—Government troops flushed out 10 mutinous soldiers in a four-hour hostage drama here Monday and began hunting down a rebel provincial governor held responsible for the killing of a general. Suspended Cagayan governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo and about 100 armed men slipped through a military cordon Sunday after his followers took Brigadier General Oscar Florendo captive in a hotel and killed him as government troops mounted an assault.

Mr. Aguinaldo, a former paramilitary colonel elected governor in 1988, is wanted on rebellion and murder charges for openly declaring support for last December's bloody coup attempt in Manila against President Corazon Aquino. He was suspended last month as governor and charged in a suburban Manila court last week. Brig. Gen. Florendo, head of the Military civil relations service, was part of a team sent to serve the arrest warrant on Mr. Aguinaldo.

About 500 soldiers have been deployed to search for Mr. Aguinaldo, including elite marines flown in from Manila, northern Luzon military chief Brigadier General Orlando Antonio told reporters in this provincial capital.

Soldiers surrounded a commercial-residential building near Hotel Delfino early Monday after being tipped off about the presence of the 10 renegades, who were using a group of women inside as shields. The rebels were later persuaded to leave the building and came out in single file with their palms pressed behind their necks after leaving their firearms behind, witnesses said.

The negotiations were held as Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, wearing a flak jacket, inspected the Hotel Delfino accompanied by journalists.

Press Secretary Tomas Gomez said in Manila Monday that 16 Aguinaldo supporters were killed when more than 1,000 troops recaptured the hotel late Sunday, freeing 54 people trapped in the hotel's upper floors, including Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos. Mr. Santos told a news conference Monday that rebellion charges will be filed avainst three Cagayan town mayors and four local lawyers who joined Mr. Aguinaldo's rebellion.

Mr. Aguinaldo is a former paramilitary constabulary colonel who belonged to a banned military organization, the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, which has been involved in several attempts to overthrow Mrs. Aquino.

Brig. Gen. Antonio, the leader of the hunt for Mr. Aguinaldo, said the rebel governor sent three emissaries to open negotiations, but he told them that his orders

were to arrest him. "My order is to look for Aguinaldo and search houses and structures where he may have escaped," Brig. Gen. Antonio told reporters. "There are no shoot-to-kill orders. We will just use the necessary reasonable force."

Military spokesmen said Mr. Aguinaldo had about 100 armed followers left, after the surrender or capture on Sunday of at least 200 soldiers and government militia who sided with him.

Government officials said Brig. Gen. Florendo was shot on Mr. Aguinaldo's direct orders shortly before government troops launched their attack. Dried blood stained the floor near the hotel entrance, and stacks of cement bags and upturned furniture barricaded the stairs leading to the second floor where Mr. Santos and his military aides barricaded themselves on Sunday.

Government troops raided three beach resorts outside Tuguegarao in search of Mr. Aguinaldo on Sunday, but he was not in these areas.

"I think the situation has normalized," Brig. Gen. Antonio said.

The government had seized an armored vehicle, mortars, anti-tank weapons, sub-machineguns and ammunition from Mr. Aguinaldo's supporters on Sunday.

Manila newspapers on Monday called on the government to avenge the killing of Brig. Gen. Florendo.

Sambite Reportedly Shot Florendo

HK0603034990 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 2300 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Investigators suspect that an army captain and 16 others who joined fugitive Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo of Cagayan were the gunmen who killed Armed Forces Chief of Relations Brigadier General Oscar Florendo in a hotel in Cagayan last Sunday [3 March].

Armed Forces of the Philippines Operations Chief Brigadier General Loven Abadia said that 1st Lieutenants Leonard Agustin and Amado Bustillos witnessed Florendo's slaying when they were being held hostage inside the Delfino Hotel. Agustin and Bustillos, who were Florendo's security aides, claim that the civil relations chief was killed by Army Captain Feliciano Sambite, 7th Infantry Division deputy commander, on the hotel's ground floor. Both aides said Florendo was asking to go to the comfort room. Sambite got angry and shot the general. The bullet pierced Florendo's right chest and exited his back. De Villa denied that government troops attacked the hotel to rescue the hostages.

Knowledge of Killer Denied

HK0603043590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Armed Forces of the Philippines Operations Chief Brigadier General Loven Abadia today said that the PC-CIS [Philippine Constabulary-Criminal Investigation Service] is still investigating the killing of Brigadier General Oscar Florendo, adding that they have no knowledge of a report stating that an army captain named Feliciano Sambite killed Florendo:

[Begin Abadia recording in English] Well, everything has got to be established by evidence. That is why the CIS is taking charge of this, so that everything will be in the proper place. [end recording]

Florendo Said Shot Before Siege

HK0603062790 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] It was reported at the Senate Committee on Defense that Civil Relations Service Chief Brigadier General Oscar Florendo was shot 25 minutes before the Regional Command [Recom] 2 operatives attacked the Delfino Hotel last Sunday [4 March]. Jojo Ismael has the details:

[Begin recording] Former Navy Commodore (Ismael Apares) made the report. He is a member of the three-man fact-finding mission tasked to carry out the preliminary investigation on the hostage-taking incident in Tuguegarao two days ago. His report also said that Florendo received a phone call at around 0500 regarding Aguinaldo's siege of the Delfino Hotel, where top government officials from Manila like Florendo, Department of Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos, and others were billeted. After the call, Florendo, his driver, and a bodyguard went to Recom 2 headquarters, but were intercepted by Aguinaldo. They were taken hostage and brought back to the Delfino Hotel. (Apares) also submitted to the committee the list of soldiers and [words indistinct] believed to have joined Aguinaldo in fighting the government forces. [end recording]

500,000-Peso Reward Recommended

HK0603063590 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] A cash reward of 500,000 pesos will be recommended for the capture of suspended Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo. This was announced by Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos, who added that he will make the recommendation to President Aquino this afternoon.

Speaking in a news conference this morning, Santos said that the offer of a cash reward will hopefully hasten the arrest of Aguinaldo. Santos also said that only Brigadier General Oscar Florendo's aides can shed light on the truth behind the general's death. His two aides who were taken hostage with him are: Lieutenants Leonardo Agustin and Boots Bustillos.

NEWSDAY on Cagayan Incident

HK0503042790 Manila PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY in English 5 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[By Dario Agnote and Ernesto Tugaff Jr]

[Excerpts] Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Civilian Relations Service chief, and at least 13 others were killed in Tuguegarao yesterday after government efforts to arrest suspended Cagayan Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo on rebellion with murder charges triggered heavy fighting between government forces and Aguinaldo's men. [passage omitted]

Of the 13 other fatalities, 10 were killed during armed clashes at a checkpoint near a bridge, and three others in fighting near a gasoline station. [passage omitted]

How Florendo was wounded was not clear and the government troopers were able to breach the defenses set up by Aguinaldo men an hour after the Balzain bridge firefight. At 3:45 p.m. government forces secured the hotel and freed the hostages in the upper floors.

Earlier in a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo, De Villa assured the public that the Tuguegarao incident would end up peacefully, saying the military was on top of the situation particularly in Cagayan. "For the rest of the country, we have no indications that any disturbances or any other action from any threat groups will be launched," De Villa told reporters. "We have alerted all the military commanders in the country to prepare their units for whatever contingencies may arise from this localized situation in Cagayan."

De Villa said the military has enough forces in Cagayan plus additional reinforcements that could be moved to affected areas." Gen. Antonio is in control of the military situation in the area," said De Villa saying there are four helicopters in the area" and some more in Isabela."

De Villa also appealed to the media particularly broadcasters to "carefully assess" every news item before airing them to avoid misinformation. "At this point, we anticipate anti-government groups like the underground ultra-rightists and the communist CPP-NPA [Communist Party of the Philippines—New People's Army] to take advantage of the situation by launching various misinformation action," he said. [passage omitted]

Editorial Demands Punishment

HK0503042990 Manila THE MANILA CHRONCILE in English 5 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "This Treachery Must Not Go Unpunished"]

[Text] The treachery with which suspended governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo of Cagayan demonstrated his objection to an otherwise peaceful exercise of due process under our budding democracy must be rejected and condemned by peace-loving Filipinos.

Refusing to submit to lawful procedures in connection with an investigation into his suspected role in the aborted coup in December, Aguinaldo made a mockery of institutions and processes that our new democracy is trying to install. First, he gathered a band of armed supporters and hied off to his hometown to avoid being served court warrants for his arrest. Warned by government representatives that he would be sought out just the same, Aguinaldo launched an assault against these officials.

Aguinaldo's adventure has so far resulted in the death of a military officer, Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo, who was shot shortly before the suspended governor's band fled a Cagayan hotel that they had occupied during the assault. Florendo, who was in Cagayan as part of a government team to ask Aguinaldo to submit to peaceful legal procedures, was earlier held hostage by Aguinaldo's group. The Government must not let this treacherous act go unpunished. The full force of the law must be applied. There is simply no place in our democracy for this kind of act.

As for Aguinaldo, the only wise alternative for him now is to surrender and face the consequences of his unexplainable moves. The violence that he has sown this past weekend can only hound him wherever he goes.

Cagayan 'Tragedy' Questioned

HK0503065990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE in English 5 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Blood in Cagayan"]

[Text] What we deeply feared could happen ("Bloodletting in the making," editorial, March 4) has come to pass.

The explosive situation in Cagayan province exploded yesterday in violence. The defiance of suspended governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo of an order for his arrest based on a rebellion complex charge turned, first, into a case of hostage taking and occupation of a hotel in Tuguegarao. Then, it grimly and suddenly became a full-scale battle between several hundreds of his soldier-supporters and over a thousand government troops sent to take him.

When the smoke of battle cleared, a general who was taken hostage by the rebels lay dead. Two other soldiers were also killed and eight were wounded. And Aguinaldo and most of his men escaped.

Nothing can surely extenuate the rebellious actions of Aguinaldo and his men that led to this tragedy. Nor can expressions of sorrow assuage the loss of a fine officer like Gen. Oscar Florendo. But such as it is, this is not just one more case of the law being defied and the government doing its utmost to punish criminals and rebels. This tragic affair is shrouded by issues of considerable complexity and raises many questions that the nation must reflect on. Foremost of which is whether this tragedy could have been avoided.

When the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Gen. Renato de Villa issued his ultimatum to Aguinaldo to surrender at noon last Saturday or be assaulted by government troops, we were precisely worried that the government was turning too soon to a military solution before exhausting all possibilities of a peaceful resolution. The fact that Aguinaldo had earlier acceded to his suspension after a prolonged holdout promised at least the efficacy of mediation.

It was therefore a welcome relief when Defense Secretary Ramos stepped in to extend the surrender deadline and order further negotiations with the rebel governor.

What happened between the Ramos declaration and yesterday's bloodletting is what many of us are asking now. How did it happen that the processes of negotiations with Aguinaldo failed so dismally to avert the bloodletting? Why did the governor move to take possession of Hotel Delfino and take hostage the very people negotiating with him? And why did government troops move so swiftly to lay siege on the hotel when the lives of many hostages were clearly in danger?

When we expressed concern about the situation in Cagayan it was precisely because we feared a repeat of the incidents in Camp Cawa-Cawa in Zamboanga City and the Davao Penal Colony in Davao City wherein so many died. We contended that what was happening in Cagayan could be related with the rebellion complex issue being heard by the Supreme Court, and that given time for the high court to rule on the matter, some way could be found to defuse the explosive situation.

Now, of course, with the killing of General Florendo and the flight of Aguinaldo, the whole situation has changed dramatically in complexion. The governor is now in open rebellion against the State, with the blood of the general on his hands. And it is for the government and its forces to do everything they can to bring him into custody or smite him down.

Even so, the nation must clearly worry about the repercussions of this affair for the military in particular and political stability in general. There are grounds to believe that in its very show of resolve to bring suspected coup plotters before the bar of justice, the government may have simply precipitated another national crisis.

The uncertainties surrounding Enrile's arrest opened up new anxieties about the national situation. The tragedy in Cagayan has taken it beyond tension into open violence. Who knows where it will lead to now? We cannot help asking whether all this might have been avoided had the government not invented this new thing called "rebellion complex charges" or had the Supreme Court ruled promptly on whether the government is in the right on this or not.

Time for Leniency Said 'Over'

HK0503043190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 5 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Aguinaldo Case: Time for Leniency Is Over"]

[Text] The tragedy in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, should finally convince the military leadership—and the government, for that matter—that a policy of appeasement does not apply to homicidal maniacs like Rodolfo Aguinaldo. Or his fellows in the Reform the Armed Forces Movement [RAM]. Had the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] high command realized this earlier, the life of the Armed Forces spokesman, Brig Gen Oscar Florendo, a non-combatant, would not have been needlessly sacrificed.

That such a policy would not work with Aguinaldo was evident right from the start of his falling out with the government in December, in the aftermath of his open support for the December coup attempt. For several embarrassing days in January, the former RAMBoy made a monkey out of the government. While Local Government Secretary Luis Santos and his men looked like a bunch of fools trying in vain to serve the suspension order on Aguinaldo, the former colonel went about ranting and raving—gaining publicity mileage in the process—against the government. At one point, he even threatened to go underground with his private army of goons, former communist rebels and renegade CAFGUs [Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Units] if he were suspended as governor. It was only after the military smoked him out of the governor's office in Tuguegarao that he finally partly relented. He retreated with his goons to the nearby guest house where he stayed until he fled to his stronghold in Gattaran town to escape arrest for his involvement in the December coup attempt.

Before the shootout in Tuguegarao yesterday noon, we thought that the embarrassing episode with Aguinaldo in January had taught our Armed Forces leaders a better way to handle him. Many endorsed the dispatch of 10,000 men backed by a V-150 armored car and four helicopter gunships to Gattaran, although it seemed to be an exaggerated reaction at first. Then came the statement of Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos that there would be no negotiations with Aguinaldo, coupled with his order to get the suspended governor "at all cost."

Santos, for his part, said the warrant for the arrest of Aguinaldo must be served as soon as possible because the government cannot afford to lose face over its inability to enforce the law.

To convince Aguinaldo of the government's no-nonsense approach, the AFP high command also sent in some of its ablest officers to augment those already in Cagayan to oversee the operations to bag him. General Florendo; Rear Adm Emerson Tangan, Armed Forces vice chief of staff; Col Carlos Tanega, chief of the Intelligence Service

of the AFP; Col Emiliano Templo, deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations, to name a few, and Local Government Secretary Santos.

But the AFP leaders did not move fast enough and underestimated Aguinaldo's desperation by announcing their plan to invade his stronghold. The RAMBoy beat them to it, with fatal results on the government side.

Clearly, the time for leniency is past. Aguinaldo and his men have shown no respect for authority and human life; they must be given none.

Columnist Views Rebellion

HK0503043790 Manila PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY in English 5 Mar 90 p 10

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "What the Cagayan Rebellion Means"]

[Text] Brig. Gen. Oscar Florendo became the first fatality in the siege of Tuguegarao, the highest ranking in any confrontation between government troops and military rebels since 1986. No details have been released about how he got shot, but it appears he fell when government forces assaulted the Hotel Delfino which the men of suspended Governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo had earlier taken over. Initial reports were careful to point out that he was "presumably" gunned down by one of Aguinaldo's men. But later Malacanang dropped the word "presumably" and asserted unequivocally that he was, in fact, gunned down by one of Aguinaldo's followers. Florendo's death is reminiscent of the death of Brig. Gen. Eduardo Batalla at Camp Cawa Cawa in Zamboanga last year where government forces bombarded the building in which he was being held hostage by a renegade Muslim policeman who ironically slipped out of the rubble. But whereas Cawa Cawa was a pure hostage situation, the Cagayan affair is a full-fledged rebellion.

It is obvious the government completely miscalculated in Cagayan. Florendo, along with Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos, must have felt confident that Aguinaldo, despite his initial resistance, would in the end receive the warrant for his arrest in connection with the failed December coup just as he ultimately agreed last January to be suspended for 60 days despite his followers barricading the approaches to the provincial capitol to prevent Santos and company from serving the suspension order. What Florendo and Santos obviously did not count on was the possibility that while Aguinaldo could be persuaded to accept a 60-day suspension from office, he would actively resist the idea of being arrested and detained without bail, like Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, who also hails from Cagayan.

We cannot say how the whole tragic affair is going to end. Aguinaldo, a counterinsurgency expert, seems to have a sufficiently large force to tie down a sizeable portion of the Armed Forces in a prolonged hit-and-run battle. He has familiarity with and command of the terrain and appears to have a lot of supporters and sympathizers. As distinguished from a coup attempt where the objective is to take overt the central government, his objective is limited: to avoid being captured and delivered to his jailers.

In a coup, the government could, as in the previous attempts, throw in all its forces to prevent the anti-government move from succeeding. But in an operation like this, it cannot possibly throw in everything without making itself completely vulnerable at the center. So while President Aquino's order to General Renato de Villa, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, to get over this as quickly as possible is understandable, it may not be so easy to implement. The rebellion will continue so long as Aguinaldo remains at large, and so far that seems to be the situation.

Malacanang is correct in saying that this is a purely local situation. But it is wrong in saying that this does not and should not affect life in Manila and the rest of the nation. In affects life not only in Manila but all over the country; indeed, it affects the international perception of political stability of the nation. Mrs. Aquino's inability to suppress this rebellion erodes her credibility and makes her vulnerable to threats of rebellion from other groups in other regions, beginning at the center.

If the Cagayan situation continues, a similar explosion could follow elsewhere, possibly in Mindanao, where tension has risen following the highly controversial elections in the newly created Muslim autonomous region. Not to be discounted is another strike by the military reformists who nearly toppled the regime last December were it not for the timely intervention of the U.S. F-4 Phantom jets, which flew air missions for the Aquino government. There is no authoritative public reading of the capability of this group at this time. But since the December 1, 1989 coup attempt was crushed, the government has given the impression that the question is not whether the same forces will strike again, but when.

At the same time, we must now consider the real possibility of the New People's Army [NPA] exploiting any prolonged confrontation between government forces and any group of military rebels in any part of the country. The failure of the NPA to initiate any move during the nine days of December when the central government was under seige has been used by government propagandists to advance the view that the NPA is now a spent force. This is one more sign that the government has succeeded in believing its own propaganda about its "successes" against the communist movement. But the NPA is not a spent force. On the day the Cagayan confrontation began to take shape, NPA guerillas were reported to have simultaneously raided several towns in Bataan without much resistance from the government side.

Reportage on Enrile Arrest, Case Continues

Commission To Probe Coup Role

HK0203055990 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] The Davide Commission will conduct a separate investigation into the role of Senator Juan Ponce Enrile in the aborted coup d'etat last December. This was announced today by committee Chairman Hilario Davide at a hearing in Camp Crame.

The committee today heard the testimonies of three suspected rebel soldiers. Davide said that Enrile's case is presently being handled by the Department of Justice and the National Bureau of Investigations. However, he believed that it is necessary for his commission to conduct a separate investigation into Enrile's case. Present at the hearing today were Captain Danilo Pizaro, Lieutenant Colonel Arsenio Tecson, and Brigadier General Marcelo Blando.

Ramos on Martial Law 'Fears'

HK0203040490 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos brushed aside fears that the arrest of Enrile will usher in the declaration of martial law in the country. The defense chief said that it is in the power of the president to declare martial law as she sees fit, but quickly added he saw no reason for that being invoked at this time.

Press Coverage of Arrest Viewed

HK0403004090 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 3 Mar 90 p 5

["Edgewise" column by Alfred A. Yuson: "The Real Feedback on JPE (Juan Ponce Enrile)'s Arrest"]

[Text] A corporate lawyer, on his first working day back from a Hong Kong trip, walked in a bit late for an early morning conference with some businessmen. He was asked if he had stayed up late into the night, as they had, celebrating the news of JPE [Juan Ponce Enrile]'s arrest. The mood has been upbeat in Makati's financial circles, this lawyer-friend said to me over the phone. If anything, it is marred only by the increasing perception that most of the dailies have failed to reflect this positive upturn.

When he was in Hong Kong, he related, the taipans were quick to quiz him on whether the Cory government was intent on pursuing the case against someone who had long been viewed, whether correctly or wrongly, as a serious source of destabilization. It was with a healthy sense of expectancy that these potential investors viewed what they considered a good sign, if somewhat long overdue.

The Philippine government, in their minds, had finally given strong assurance that it could take action against forces imperilling its stability. Perhaps now it was finally buckling down to resolute work, and acting as it should have a long time ago.

A similar perception informs a great majority of the public these days, contrary to what a reader may glean if he were to scan the major dailies, where the prevailing notion appears to be that the arrest is at best controversial, and at worst, open to the simplistic interpretation that it smacks of political vindictiveness, repression, yeah, even persecution. Already the hacks and hucksters have been proclaiming that a martyr is in the making. They say that the Cory administration, the same one they criticize no end for lack of political will, for indecisiveness, ineptness and impotence in going after its enemies, doesn't quite know what it's doing.

Now that the Government has acted with a satisfactory degree of resoluteness and efficiency, it is met with cries of protest and derision. Never mind that the man who has been charged and incarcerated had publicly confessed to feats of duplicity in the past, or that he may have indeed contributed to all those coup efforts, or that he is now being extended all the courtesies that befit his stature as a Senator, and perhaps more importantly, as manifestations of a regained democracy—inclusive of presscons [press conferences], extended visiting hours, air-conditioned detention quarters, a phone line to Louie Beltran's TV talkshow...

That boardroom meeting my lawyer-friend attended produced the unanimous lament that it's a paid press that we have, not a free one. And that Philippine media will continue to be a major contributing factor to the problems confronting us. In the case of Enrile's arrest, the oppositionist media continued to hold sway with their verdict of political harassment. Was this a true reflection of public reaction? No it wasn't, went the businessmen's chorus. I would agree. Most people I've talked to have come up with a decidedly uniform reaction: It's about time! Of course I could be moving in the wrong circles. Yet the remarks have been most reassuring.

Three cheers for Trampe and his staff! At last the Government is doing something to pre-empt more coups. I hope the guy gets what's due him. Nuon pa dapat 'yan! [long overdue] He certainly deserves it. This may be the start of something good. Let's hope more big fish are to follow. Bakit sila Satur Ocampo, non-bailable din, kahit hindi rebellion complex? [How come the charges against Satur Ocampo are non-bailable when they are even rebellion complex?] [sentence as published]

These comments, albeit pointing to a commonsensical consensus, hardly gain mileage in today's press. And why is that? Can't say it beats me, for I know why, and I'll tell you. Several reasons. Money. Accommodation. Political insurance. Personal axes to grind against Corysmo [Coryism]. Past loyalties. Bandwagon acquiescence to high drama. Underdog advocacy. Muddleheadedness.

Most of us in the profession know a PR [Public Relations] blitz when we see one. We know too what fuels such a concatenation of mythmaking/muckraking. What saddens me is that the true professionals in our field of opinion-writing have yet to get together to denounce the practice of envelopmental journalism [bribery] in more explicit ways, such as naming names and coming up with a Who's Who of payola [bribes] recipients.

Political accommodation and insurance-writing are somewhat linked, with the end in view of surviving the cycles of governance. After all, the opposition today may become the dispensation tomorrow.

Certain columnists take incessant issue with anything Cory does or does not do because they despise her for having upended their juicy applecarts. They used to enjoy favored status, those who either served Marcos or wrote for and/or helped managge his crony press. Others have pending libel cases against them filed by the President herself (one of whom, incidentally, whips out what he calls his RAM [Reform the Armed Forces Movement] lighter and flicks it to a high-shooting flame every-time Cory's name is mentioned).

Admittedly, some columnists take issue with whatever the Administration does for reasons other than those cited above. There are the ideologues who still think that remaining five notches Left-of-Center isn't at all being outdated. Then there are those who take perverse delight in chronicling Cory's bottomless well of faults. And there is of course that wide-bottomed woman of venom who dishes it out as the sourest of grapes because she lost what she had in the early, heady, juicy days.

It takes all kinds. But ask the people around you how they feel about the arrest of someone who has had the dubious distinction of registering the highest disapproval ratings in public surveys. The majority would say that he deserved it.

Ask again, why then do some papers, through their frontpage reports or columns, claim that a 'nationwide clamor (has begun) to take shape...for the immediate release of Juan Ponce Enrile from detention...'? They'll tell you they have learned not to believe the newspapers. And that the 'media stars,' as some columnists are called, are the most vulnerable to corruption complexed with influence peddling, or plain and simple muddleheadedness.

Enrile News Conferences Limited

HK0503133590 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] President Aquino said all discussions related to Senator Juan Ponce Enrile's case should be directed to the court. She also explained the limited press conferences asked by the senator. Enrile said his freedom of speech is being suppressed when the media was prohibited to enter Camp Karingal while the siege in Tuguegarao, Cagayan was taking place:

[Begin recording in English] [Words indistinct] the facilities available to the senator under detention are matters for the court that has jurisdiction over each person [words indistinct]. The court will have to take into account requirements and security, as well as the rights of detained persons. Full access to the press 24 hours a day is not to be demanded a right. But certainly that access can and should be regulated.

I have instructed the Armed Forces to carry out the arrest order against suspended governor Aguinaldo. Using such force as is necessary, but taking all feasible measures for the safety of civilians. [end recording]

That was the president's statement read by Undersecretary Horacio Paredes.

Press Ban Termed 'Overkill'

HK0503065790 Manila PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY in English 5 Mar 90 p 1

[By Merlinda Manalo]

[Text] Jailed opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile branded yesterday as an "overkill" the alleged move of Malacanang banning his press conferences in his cell in Camp Tomas Karingal, Quezon City or over the telephone. Enrile, who is being detained on charges of rebellion complexed with murder for his alleged complicity in the December coup attempt, added that his side on the issue had already been "drowned by the avalanche of propaganda from Malacanang."

In a statement, he said: "As I have already said before, I am already resigned to being silenced. By filing a non-bailable, non-existent charge which had resulted in my arrest and imprisonment, Mrs Aquino has already succeeded in stifling the voice of the lone opposition member of the Senate." He added: "The ban is an overkill because as I can see from the print and broadcast reports on my case, the administration has already successfully drowned out the voice of truth in the discussion of the issues. It has marshalled all its resources to see to it that my side of the issues is drowned by the avalanche of propaganda from Malacanang."

Meanwhile, Enrile is expected to be arraigned today, at 10 a.m. at Vargas Building in Kalayaan Avenue, Quezon City, before Judge Jaime Salazar who issued the warrant of arest against the senator. But government prosecutors said that the hearing may be postponed because the case still has to await decision of the Supreme Court regarding issues raised by Enrile in his habeas corpus petition.

He was reacting to reports that Malacanang officials were "pressuring" the Northern Police District in Camp Karingal not to allow Enrile to hold any more press briefings or radio interviews over the telephone.

Erile's press conference last Saturday was abruptly cancelled. Aides of the senator said Malacanang ordered the

news blackout. Gate sentries confirmed that no newsman was allowed to talk to Enrile last Saturday.

Human Rights Commissioner Mary Concepcion Bautista had complained that Enrile was getting "special treatment" from his jailers. Enrile is detained at an air-conditioned room with an adjoining toilet and bathroom at Camp Karingal. Bautista said that unlike Enrile, his military counterparts charged with alleged involvement in the December coup attempt are imprisoned at Fort Bonifacio and Camp Crame, inside cells which the prisoners complained have no privacy.

"As to my being given special treatment, I have already said that if it pleases Mrs Aquino, she can keep me in a dungeon. It won't be a new experience for me, having been confined before in a dungeon during the last war by the Japanese Imperial Forces," Enrile said. He stressed that he gave press conferences because of requests from newsmen and "in order to give substance to the freedom of speech...enshrined in the 1987 Constitution of the Philippines crafted and ratified under the Aquino regime."

He also said the alleged ban does not have a "serious and sinister effect" on him but on press freedom. "The ban only affects a solitary person named Juan Ponce Enrile, while when it comes to press freedom, the ban seeks to destroy an institution that is a bulwark of democracy," he added.

Enrile questioned the validity of his arrest in his 18-page petition for a writ of habeas corpus before the Supreme Court. Enrile, through lawyers Serafin Cuevas and Renato Cayetano, said he is being indicted for a crime—rebellion complexed with murder—which does not exist. He said the charge was filed without the requisite preliminary investigation, that the judge issued the warrant without first determining if probable cause exists to issue it, and that he has been denied the right to bail.

The Supreme Court Thursday granted Enrile's petition for the issuance of a writ of habeas corups and ordered his jailers to present him in court at a public hearing on Tuesday, March 6.

Solicitor General Francisco Chavez will justify the government's detention of Enrile before the Supreme Court today.

Enrile said he is being jailed for a crime which Aquino herself has stricken from the statute books when she still held "revolutionary" legislative powers.

Dismissal of Enrile's Plea Sought

HK0603023490 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Solicitor General Francisco Chavez asked the Supreme Court to reject the petition of opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile seeking the dismissal of the rebellion charges filed against him. Chavez told the high tribunal that a valid preliminary investigation was conducted on Enrile's case. Enrile was charged with a crime of complex rebellion with murder and multiple frustrated murder. He had earlier [word indistinct] that there is no valid preliminary investigation.

Although the investigation was inititially for rebellion, the [word indistinct] evidence also showed the commission of the crimes of murder and multiple frustrated murder, the composite team of prosecuters was justified in filing an information for the crime against Enrile. [sentence as heard] Chavez also claimed that the information filed before the Regional Trial Court in Quezon City was valid because contrary to the Hernandez case, the information filed against Enrile specifically alleged that the crime of rebellion, complex with murder and multiple frustrated murder, was committed merely on the occasion of, but not necessarily the commission of rebellion.

Service Commanders To Retire by 15 Mar

HK0203050390 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 2 Mar 90 pp 1, 18

[By Wilma Yamzon]

[Text] All major service commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will be retired on or before March 15, 16 days earlier than the original April 1 schedule, a military official disclosed yesterday. The sudden change in the retirement schedule came up yesterday with the appointment of Brig Gen Guillermo Flores, former chief of the Southern Command, as Philippine Army commander, replacing Maj Gen Manuel Cacanando effective today.

The early retirement of the four AFP command services' chiefs caught many generals by surprise although it was observed that "16 days don't make much difference." April 1 is the official retirement date for members of the Philippine Military Academy Class [PMA] of 1958.

Camp Aguinaldo sources said that while the move by the AFP high command will set off major changes in the military organization, it could lead to a "power struggle" among junior officers. The official, who asked not to be identified, revealed that all of the retiring generals will get their relief orders from General Headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City between March 8 and March 10. Their relief will take effect as soon as their successors take over their posts, although they are still considered active in the military service until April 1, he said.

Other military officials at Camp Aguinaldo declared that while the retirement of the heads of the Philippine Air Forces [PAF], Philippine Navy, Philippine Army, and Philippine Constabulary came early, the move will pave the way for "faster and smoother transition" in the military organization.

Unconfirmed reports said that Navy chief Rear Admiral Carlito Y. Cunanan will be relieved either on March 8 or March 10 and replaced by Commodore Mariano Dumangcas, a PMA Class '60 graduate. It was gathered that the designation of generals belonging to Class '60 may "trigger discontent among officials belonging to Class '59 since they will lose their chances of getting top positions in the AFP," according to the same source.

Last January, Brig Gen Alejandro Galido left the military service also earlier than April 1. Galido went to the United States for medical treatment.

Last March 1, Maj Gen Jose de Leon, Air Force chief, bowed out of the military service. The PAF announcement cited "health problems" for De Leon's early retirement.

Flores will assume command of the Philippine Army in simple ceremonies at Fort Bonifacio today. Flores commanded the 201st Infantry Brigade in Bicol in 1986, organized and deployed in Central Luzon the 3rd Infantry Brigade (which later became the 7th Infantry Division), and became the head of the Southern Command in August last year.

Flores rose from the ranks from platoon leader to company commander, battalion commander, brigade commander, division commander, and area commander. He had also been an instructor at the PMA where he graduated in 1959. He became the chief of staff of the 1st Infantry Division in Jolo before becoming chief of staff and deputy commander of the AFP Military Police Brigade.

NPA Rebels Say Policemen's Ambush Accidental

HK0203075390 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 1 Mar 90 p 7

[Text] Iligan City—The communist New People's Army (NPA) yesterday claimed responsibility for the ambush-slaying of nine policemen of Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte, on Feb. 17 but said it was "a case of mistaken identity."

Viktorio Rojo, spokesman of the NPA Fernando Flores Operational Command, said in a signed statement "that the tragedy which happened to the policemen was a case of mistaken identity as they were believed to be combatants of the Philippine Constabulary. That is why they were ambushed and killed.

Rojo extended his group's "condolences to the bereaved families and relatives of the policemen."

Communist 'Commander' Arrested in Quezon City

HK0203075190 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 1 Mar 90 p 13

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Cabanatuan City—A New People's Army (NPA) commander with a P [Peso] 30,000 reward for his capture, dead or alive, for many murder cases, was captured yesterday in Quezon City by Nueva Ecija PC [Philippine Constabulary] troopers, led by Col. Ferdinand A. Lagman. Lagman said in his report to Brig. Gen. Cesar Nazareno, Recom 2 PC-INP [Integrated National Police] chief, that captured was Conrado Clemente, alias "Ka [comrade] Edwin," tagged Nueva Ecija's Public Enemy No. 1. Lagman said Clemente was nabbed in Novaliches, Quezon City. He was wanted for the killing of former Aliaga mayor Nelia Valencia on Aug. 27, 1987. He was charged with murder before Regional Trial Court Judge Mamerto Pacris. He was also wanted for the killing of police Pat H. Valino, Diony Tolentino, Domingo Santos and his daughter Mely, of barangay San Juan, all of Aliaga.

Lagman said Clemente was the head of the "Agaw Armas" (gun snatching) group of the NPAs in Nueva Ecija. He said Clemente was responsible for stealing nine guns, including a .38 caliber revolver of Valencia.

Aliaga town officials and residents hailed Lagman and his men for the capture of Clemente. Lagman ordered tight security for Clemente in the wake of reports that his men will rescue him from the provincial jail.

Military Announces Move To Check Cebu Rebels

HK0203054190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] The military announced that it will launch Oplan [Operation Plan] Bravo to discover rebel movements in Cebu City and nearby places. Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Cuadra, Cebu constabulary commander, said that he has ordered his field units to step up patrols and set up checkpoints in southern Cebu. The checkpoints are intended to block the entry of rebels into the city of Cebu and neighboring provinces like Bohol and Negros Oriental.

According to senior military officials, large groups of rebels could expand their movement to central and eastern Cebu.

Thailand

Editorial on U.S. 'Hypocrisy' in Rice Proposals

BK0603011190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 6 Mar 90 p 10

[Editorial: "Sheer US Hypocrisy"]

[Text] "The world expects the US to do the job of supply management," complained a spokesman for the US Rice Producers' Legislative Group.

If that is the level of argument in Washington and the rice-growing American states about rice subsidies, then Oranut Osathanon, director general of the Foreign Trade Department, is right not to testify in person at this week's Congressional hearings. She might as well cancel

the contract with Thailand's American lobbyists, too, because no sense can come out of the so-called "debate" on the new Farm Act.

After four years of comment about the rice subsidies, members of the US rice industry should at least know by now that no one is asking them to "manage" the supply of rice. In fact, the Americans do not manage the supply of their rice nearly as well as the Japanese, whose production is heavily protected without their rice flooding on to world markets.

Rather, it is the American rice farmers and millers who expect to be feather-bedded by their compatriot taxpayers. And it is the Federal budget that requires supply to be managed by limiting the cultivated acreage—otherwise the American economy would be in even worse shape than it already is.

To be sure, the rest of the world believes that if the Americans insist on making $1 billion per year available for subsidizing rice they should at least have the decency of making sure that the rice is not dumped on world markets.

But the arguments of the rest of the world are not heard in Washington or Arkansas. Only US self-interest—to put some limits on the subsidies and to cut the costs of paddy storage by the government's subsidizing agency—is causing the acreage restrictions.

Three years of drought-struck production and high prices have undermined the chances of rice farmers in Thailand and other Third World countries being saved from the price-depressing effect of the Farm Act when the cycle turns and world production and stocks recover.

Thailand's so-called "friends" in the State Department and yet another Republican administration have failed abysmally to show any concern for the possible damage that could be caused to the American's unsubsidized competitors. They have exploited the recent high prices to claim that the rice programme has no effect on Thailand—if that were true, there would be no need for a rice programme at all, especially in low-price years.

The Bush administration's recently-released proposals for the new Farm Act, due to pass through Congress in the next few months, merely serve American interests by streamlining the administration of the subsidies, reducing the costs slightly and actually enhancing the ability of the US Department of Agriculture to undercut competitors' prices on world markets. No wonder the president of the US Rice Millers' Association is delighted.

The American government's position is fast emerging as hypocritical. The proposals for rice are a far cry from the Americans' self-righteous claim to favour free trade in agriculture. The US rice subsidies are unilateral. They are not a response to anyone else's subsidies because no one else subsidizes their exported rice to any meaningful extent. Any sympathy previously expressed by the Bush administration for Thai concerns has been shown to be meaningless.

The Thai document submitted to Congress this week is also a disappointment. It limply gives up the battle before any fighting has begun and calls for token tinkering with the loan subsidy programme and acreage reduction programme that is unlikely to have a significant effect.

The call for a more "transparent" calculation of the US Agriculture Department's world price index—used to determine the size of the subsidies—is of dubious merit. A more transparent formula would be open to more pressure from all parties, including the US rice industry; and this year Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter's officials have already shown how susceptible they are to lobbying by allowing an increase in the subsidized rice acreage.

The Thai government has failed to make a sufficiently strong gesture; but it would have been no more than a gesture. Washington has shown clearly it is prepared to twist principles in order to serve its own interests.

Leaders, Polish Delegation Discuss Economic Ties

BK0203012590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Mar 90 p 2

[By Nick Keyes]

[Text] The Speaker of the Polish Parliament, visiting Bangkok with a delegation to promote bilateral ties, called yesterday for a substantial increase in Thai investment in Poland and invited top Thai officials to visit his country to view the fundamental changes now underway there for themselves.

Mikolaj Kozakiewicz, the marshal of the Sejm (the Polish lower house) [Sejm deputy], and MPs [members of parliament] from Poland met yesterday with high-ranking Thai officials including Deputy Prime Minister Phong Sarasin and Parliament President Wan Chansu.

The speaker told Phong that Poland would like Thai advice on improving its economy given Thailand's strong recent economic performance.

The deputy premier agreed to an invitation by Kozakiewicz to visit Poland and will lead a Thai trade delegation there in April.

The Polish delegation, which is in Thailand until today, later held a press conference at which the speaker outlined the economic situation in Poland and stressed the need for foreign investment. He pointed out that as his government has taken anti-inflationary measures, the Polish currency is fully convertible and investment opportunities are wide open.

"It would be very unfortunate for Thailand, given its high rate of growth, not to use this opportunity," Kozakiewicz said. "I have asked your officials how it is possible for Thailand, which has annual trade of US$20 billion, to have only $40 million in trade with Poland," he added.

In answer to a question about the worries of Thai investors that Poland may not have the purchasing power for trade, Kozakiewicz said Poland has received a massive infusion of aid since the communist government was voted out of power last June, including US$300 million (Bt [Baht] 7.68 billion) in cash from the World Bank. He pointed out that the government has guaranteed that it would make up for investors' losses, an incentive he said was uncommon in most countries, including Thailand. He also mentioned that Poland has a stable foreign currency base as more than a third of the population have relatives living abroad who regularly remit money and invest in the country.

Jozef Zych, an MP from the delegation [as published] and an agricultural specialist, said the most pressing investment needs were in agriculture machinery manufacturing and fertilizer production. Fertilizer has been one of the major Polish exports to Thailand.

The Polish government's fight to keep inflation in check and its scrapping of subsidies to uncompetitive state enterprises has resulted in major unemployment, and it is hoped that foreign investment will revitalize industries, the speaker said.

On the question of whether the sweeping changes in Europe would affect the communist governments in Asia, Kozakiewicz pointed to the recent election in Nicaragua as an example that people throughout the world are thinking that "the past was wrong." But he stressed that China was a special case.

"With one billion people, China will have to be much more cautious than Poland was. It's like an atomic bomb," he said.

Chatchai, Bangladesh President Discuss Trade

BK0503151990 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, accompanied by Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan and Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand M.H. Chowdhury [as heard], paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan at Government House this afternoon on the occasion of his visit to Thailand from 4 to 5 March. The Bangladesh president mentioned the close relations between the two countries and expressed his admiration for Thailand's economic development.

Prime Minister Chatchai said that despite the tremendous economic expansion, Thailand still has several problems to solve, such as improving its infrastructure to meet and cope with the economic expansion and solving environmental problems. Talking about economic and investment expansion, the prime minister said that Thailand has a project to develop the southern seaboard. This plan includes roads, railways, and pipelines for transporting oil which will link the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand and will reduce the time and cost of transporting oil.

The Bangladesh president said that Thailand's economy is more advanced than in Bangladesh. Bangladesh has major products like jute, tea leaves, fertilizers, and carpets made from jute. The price of these jute carpets is cheap, but there is a high import tax in Thailand. Ershad said that he wants Thailand to consider reducing its import duty. He also invited Thai businessmen to invest in Bangladesh to promote trade between the two countries.

Chatchai Shelves Privatization Plans 'Temporarily'

BK0203041990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Facing mounting labour pressure, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday decided to temporarily postpone the privatisation scheme for state enterprises, pending further study by a committee in which workers will be represented.

Government Spokesman Suwit Yotmani said the decision would affect investment projects currently under government consideration, such as that of the Port Authority of Thailand [PAT] to allow private firms to operate the Laem Chabang deep-sea port.

Gen Chatchai yesterday appointed his deputy Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan to head of committee comprising various government agencies and workers' representatives to jointly consider new investment projects.

Talking to reporters after chairing a science and technology seminar at Government House, Gen Chatchai confirmed that the privatisation scheme would be postponed for the time being. He said he had repeatedly stressed he had no policy to privatise state enterprises and this still stood. He said the Government only had a policy to improve the work of state enterprises and he had already appointed Gen Thianchai to head a committee comprising persons from relevant organisations to undertake the matter. "From now on, any proposal related to state enterprise matters will have to be channelled through this committee," Gen Chatchai said.

The Premier's decision came after a group of state enterprise union leaders met him at his Soi Rajakru residence to submit a four-point demand for the Government to scrap the scheme. Gen Chatchai urged the union leaders from the State Enterprise Workers Union Relations Group not to resort to work stoppages to pressure the Government to scrap the privatisation plan. "The Government has no policy to privatise state enterprises," Gen Chatchai said.

Government leaders have repeatedly said that the Government will not privatise state enterprises but that it will have to allow private firms to either jointly invest or take over new development projects to avoid having to shoulder the financial burden itself.

The unionists, led by Ekkachai Ekhankamon, called on the Government to issue a clear statement that it would not allow private participation in state enterprise operations and scrap all state enterprise investment project which involved private sector participation. They also called for a committee with union representation to be set up to study ways to improve state enterprise operations, and demanded that union representatives be given seats on their agencies' boards of directors.

The demands had been raised with Deputy Interior Minister Watthana Atsawahem during the union leaders' meeting with the minister on Wednesday night and were presented to the Premier by the same group of workers yesterday.

The workers during the meeting requested that Gen Chatchai endorse their written four-point demand by signing it, but the request was rejected. "The proposal is for the Government to consider, so how can I sign it?" Gen Chatchai said.

The State Enterprise Workers Union Relations Group, which has 25 labour unions in its membership, has voiced strong opposition to the Government's privatisation plans.

Port Authority of Thailand workers, backed by the group, went on strike for five days last month to oppose the PAT plan to allow private firms to take over port handling at Laem Chabang deep-sea port.

Workers of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand [EGAT] have also been holding separate rallies in Bangkok and the provinces to oppose plans to allow private firms to participate in power development projects.

Mr Ekkachai said he was satisfied with Gen Chatchai's decision yesterday and would convey the Prime Minister's messege to union members. "The Prime Minister has given us the promise. More rallies will be held if he fails to honour it," he said.

He said his group would set up a working group to select representatives to sit on Gen Thianchai's committee.

He said the labour representatives must have knowledge of the operations of each state enterprise so that they would be able to discuss with the government officials in the committee the various investment projects.

He said state enterprise unions would suspend all industrial action for the time being.

The EGAT and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand Labour Union which began organising a rally yesterday had already called of the protest.

Another leader of the workers' group, Watthana Iembamrung, said he understood all plans under government consideration had to be stopped for the time being. These included the investment plans that would involve private participation in all state enterprises such as the PAT, the EGAT and Communications Authority of Thailand, he said.

Editorial on Chatchai's 'Complaint'

BK0303055990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Mar 90 p 8

[Editorial: "End of Thai Democracy?"]

[Text] During a meeting with protesting state enterprise union leaders on Thursday [1 March], Prime Minister Gen [General] Chatchai Chunhawan complained that the democratic system was too weak to cope with the many problems that arose each day, and he was afraid that he might be the "last democratic prime minister".

This, we suppose, was his way of hinting at the threat of a military coup against his beleagured administration. For how else could one explain the sudden change of heart of those union leaders who quickly called off a series of coordinated work stoppages after the prime minister merely stated that his administration had no policy to privatize any state enterprises.

(The government, according to the prime minister, intends only to "develop" state enterprises by permitting private investment in expansion and service improvement projects. He insists that this is "development" of state enterprises, rather than "privatization". And in fact his administration has just abolished the official use of the much dreaded term "privatization.")

The prime minister's complaint could also be taken as a calculated move to solicit sumpathy from his supporters and deter whomever may be contemplating a military takeover. But why did he describe himself as the "last democratic prime minister"?

It is sheer self-delusion that leads him to believe he personifies democracy and that his failure to stay in power is tantamount to the end of democracy in this country.

The prime minister should know that the electoral system that got he and his party into power was democratic in form only but not in substance. Money is still widely used to buy votes to win elections and many elected politicians are more concerned about enriching themselves than anything else. This is why there are so many disputes among influential politicians over multi-billion-baht contracts and the resultant delays in infrastructure projects like the Skytrain, the Saraburi-Rangsit highway and privatization of state enterprise services.

This is one of the most serious problems besetting this elected civilian government and undermining the credibility of the politicians in power, including the prime

minister himself. For ultimately he is responsible for whatever wrongdoing his Cabinet members commit.

Today happens to be the 14th anniversary of the founding of the Counter Corruption Commission [CCC]. The CCC spokesman has reported a steady rise in the number of cases of corruption brought to the CCC's attention. And today the prime minister will reiterate the "determination" of his administration to combat corruption. He will even pledge to make the CCC more effective in fighting corruption so that it can shed its "paper tiger" image.

If the prime minister is unable to stop corruption, he need not suffer in office until the end of his four-year term in mid-1992. He can resign now. One merit of the democratic system is that there are established procedures for an orderly transfer of power.

If most of the elected representatives feel that democracy cannot survive without General Chatchai, they will re-nominate him for the premiership. General Chatchai can then return with a clearer mandate to root out corruption and tackle other national problems more forcefully. However, he cannot rule out the possibility that the nomination may go to someone else.

Normally, a military coup is justified under one or a combination of the following factors: that national security is in jeopardy, there is no law and order (too many protests, strikes and clashes), and that corruption is rampant.

Now the country is at peace although there is civil war in Cambodia and Burma. The domestic communist insurgency has been crushed so that is no direct threat to national security. The state enterprise union leaders have called off their anti-privatization campaign. No strikes at this time. But what about corruption?

Corruption is still rampant—therefore there is still at least one traditional justification for a coup.

Was this what worried him?

Chatchai Remarks on Caltex Refinery Project

BK0203024590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] The controversy over granting the US oil firm Caltex the right to build an oil refinery may cause reluctance among big foreign companies to invest in Thailand, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said yesterday.

General Chatchai spoke at length in defence of his decision, as chairman of the National Energy Policy Committee (NEPC), to extend the privilege for Caltex to undertake the project by-passing the bidding procedures.

While the Prime Minister apparently made the remark in reference to the American oil company, chairman of Caltex Oil (Thailand) Sukwit Rangsitphon and the Premier's adviser Surakiat Sathianthai separtely stressed yesterday that Caltex is ready to go ahead with the controversial scheme without delay.

Mr James Kinnear, president and chief executive officer of the US oil giant Texaco, called on Gen Chatchai yesterday afternnon at Government House yesterday [as published] to enquire about the $520-million project. Texaco owns half of Caltex with another American oil firm Chevron.

The Prime Minister defended his controversial decision on two major grounds. Firstly, the country's shortfall in refining capacity will continue to prevail even after the fourth refinery (145,000 barrels per day [b/d]) to be built by Shell, Caltex's rival bidder, goes on-stream, leaving room for Caltex's project. He added that the shortfall would be around 100,000 b/d later in this decade when high growth in domestic demand for refined products is expected. Caltex's scheme calls for 120,000 b/d crude distillation capacity. Secondly, Caltex, even though it lost out to Shell in last year's bid to build the fourth refinery, is "qualified" in the same round of processing procedure to undertake the fifth refinery scheme, he reasoned.

Furthermore, he said the outright extension of the right to Caltex would help to ensure early implementation of the refinery "instead of wasting years in considering proposals (for refinery projects)," he added. "Indeed, there is nothing more than that. Don't be too suspicious," said the Prime Minister in an attempt to quell reports suggesting that he has ruled in Caltex's favour because of his "political connection" with the American oil firm.

Gen Chatchai insisted that granting the rights to build the refineries to Shell and Caltex will give them the same footing in oil marketing.

He blamed NEPC's subcommittee on petroleum policy chaired by Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Kon Thappharangsi for jumping the gun in announcing the awarding of the right to build the fourth refinery to Shell because "it upsets the working procedure."

Foreign Minister Plans 'Gradual Retreat'

BK0503011190 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Report on an "Exclusive Interview" with Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila by Suthichai Yun, "over the weekend," place not given]

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila has decided to make a gradual retreat from politics, having served as a Cabinet member for a decade. His "last mission" is to ensure that the Social Action Party will fare well in the next general election.

Sitthi, 70, confided to THE NATION that he has also deliberately adopted a low profile in foreign policy

formulation. He has dropped his previous uncompromising stand to hit back at critics, especially the prime minister's advisers, on foreign policy issues.

For the first time, the foreign minister admitted that he won't confront his critics. "Even criticisms expressed by the premier's advisers against the Foreign Ministry will not get strong responses from me anymore. I have come to realize that it is at times more effective not to hit back," he said.

In an exclusive interview with THE NATION, an apparently mellowed Sitthi said over the weekend: "The time has come for me to fade away—gradually from politics. I am getting old and I am proud of what I have achieved in my life."

Sitthi's voice was far from firm when he said, in response to a question, that he would still run in the next general election from his constituency in Bangkok. He said he will also stay in the Social Action Party (SAP), but he stressed his profile will continue to decline hereafter.

"I have got everything now and my last mission is to strengthen the party," said the SAP leader.

He said he would be reluctant to assume a Cabinet post again because he has already served as foreign minister for 10 years.

"That's not a short time at all and I have always been a working minister," he said.

Sitthi said the strongest motivation in his political career has been the desire to serve with "sincerity and integrity." Money and power are only fleeting elements for him, said the softspoken minister, almost whispering those words. Sitthi said he also wanted to "take a rest" after his extended career as a bureaucrat and politician.

"I am 7 or 8 months older than former premier General Prem Tinsulanon and several months older than Premier Chatchai Chunhawan," said Sitthi, who was secretary general of the National Security Council before serving as foreign minister. He said he remains physically fit but had naturally lost the vigour of youth.

"It's the nature of men. Like (Singapore's Premier) Lee Kuan Yew, who declared that its time for him to step down next year, I also have to think of my timing," he said.

Sitthi said that the next biannual election for a new SAP leader was scheduled for next year. But despite his intention to ease out of politics, he was ambiguous on whether he would retain the party post.

"Let me put it this way, I will continue holding the post as long as the majority of SAP MPs [member of Parliament] still respect and want me. It's not appropriate for me to say (at this point) that I won't accept the top party post. Making a statement to that effect could affect the party," Sitthi said.

The SAP leader may not want to put it in that many words. But his message is clearly this: I am quitting soon but I don't want to say that officially because that could cast a pall of confusion on the party. Let my departure be gradual to cushion any serious negative effect. He said several qualified people are in a position to take over as SAP leader, notably deputy leader Phong Sarasin and secretary general Montri Phongphanit.

Sitthi denied that there was any pressure on him from within the party to bow out.

"Montri calls me Pa (Dad) and so do many other SAP members," he said. Nonetheless, he said he would not regret it if he was not re-elected party leader.

Sitthi said that when he entered SAP, he made it clear that he did not seek power within the party.

"If I considered SAP mine, then I would seek to cling to my top post" he said. Sitthi added that he had virtually no power base in the party.

"I am alone and the only thing I have is self-respect," he said.

During the interview, Sitthi sounded uncertain about the present political situation. He said he had warned his SAP MPs that they should be prepared for a possible snap general election.

"There is nothing certain in politics. The House dissolution the last time was a lesson. When the crunch came, we did not even know exactly who would or would not run under our party's banner," he said.

Sitthi said that he would consider it a success if SAP won 80 to 90 House seats in the next polls.

The SAP leader said it appeared that acting Supreme Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut was bent on resigning from the military service soon.

Sitthi added that there is room for Chawalit to join the Chatchai Cabinet because there is a vacant Cabinet post left by the resignation of Mechai Ruchuphan, former PM's [Prime Minister's] Office minister in charge of legal affairs.

Sitthi dismissed speculation that a major Cabinet reshuffle was in the offing. He said Monthri attended a meeting with his counterparts from other major coalition parties last Thursday and would have told him if there had been agreement to reshuffle.

"I have told Montri that if there was anything important at the meeting, please let me know. He did not mention anything when he met me Thursday," the SAP leader said.

Editorial Suggests Solution to Cambodian Conflict

BK0203105590 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 2 Mar 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Another Solution to the Cambodian Conflict"]

[Text] The recent informal Cambodian peace talks in Jakarta concluded with the four Cambodian factions failing to reach any substantive agreement that would pave the way to true peace in Cambodia.

There are confirmed reports that the talks, in fact, seemed to be making positive progress, but an obstacle arose when the Khmer Rouge leader, Khieu Samphan, rejected use of the word "genocide."

Let us look back at the background of the recent talks. It can be seen that the talks resulted from great efforts made by various parties such as the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council; Australia, which proposed a formula for a peace settlement in Cambodia; the Indonesian Government, which deservedly acts as the ASEAN countries' "big brother" by willingly hosting meetings; and Thailand, whose Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan has exerted a great deal of effort—amidst criticism by academics and diplomats—in initiating talks with the Cambodian factions and in persuading the Phnom Penh regime to participate in talks with the other factions in order to find possible solutions to the Cambodian problem. Ironically, all of these efforts ended up in complete failure just because of dissatisfaction with the word "genocide."

We urge all four Cambodian factions to consider that the time has come for them to no longer argue or engage in verbal disputes because all of the countries concerned, as well as the United Nations, have spent too much time on you and will no longer be able to have patience with all of you.

Why would all of your factions not wish to reconcile with to solve your own internal problem? If you do not care for anyone, you should at least care for the Cambodian people who have fled their homeland to wander along the Thai border. How much have they suffered from hunger and hardship?

If such great assistance by various countries cannot make the Cambodian factions reach unity, the Cambodians should be left alone to solve the problem by themselves and every country must end all contacts with any of the four Cambodian factions.

Thailand should become tough-minded and must end all contacts with the leaders of any Cambodian factions. Thailand must push the Cambodian refugees back across the border and not pay attention to how many of them will die or how many will become ill. Thailand must not sympathize and must not get involved with them. If they are driven to the Thai border by fighting, Thailand must launch a counterattack to drive them off Thai territory. If every country cooperates in a similar way, it will probably make the leaders of all four Cambodian factions solve the problem more quickly.

Army Wants 40 Billion Baht To Modernize

BK2402090790 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] The army needs about Bt [baht] 40 billion to finance its modernization programme, which is aimed at increasing the offensive capability of its combat force, deputy army chief Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday.

However, Gen Suchinda said the new strategy did not mean that Thailand would be aggressive towards other countries.

"It only means we will attack first anyone who is preparing to attack us," the deputy army commander-in-chief said.

Speaking to students at Chulalongkon University yesterday on the development of the armed forces and national security, he said the army wants Bt40 billion to buy more advanced technology weapons though he did not specify what weapons he had in mind.

On political issues, the general said he would not enter national politics after his retirement from military service which he said he still enjoys.

Gen Suchinda, 56, said he was too proud of his military career to enter politics, which he considered full of people with vested interests. Entering politics would mean having to humbly beg support from many people including former subordinates, he said.

The general is considered heir apparent to Army Command-in-Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut who promised to resign this year, two years before his compulsory retirement.

Suchinda added that the military had to support the government to create the necessary stability to build confidence among foreign investors considering doing business in Thailand.

"Foreign businesses are not keen on investing in countries that frequently change their governments," the army officer said.

While saying he was not interested in politics for himself, Suchinda said many MPs [members of parliament] and ministers had little education and urged that an education standard be set for parliamentarians.

Minister Orders Review of Glass Plant Ban

BK0702015990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 Feb 90 p 17

[Text] Industry Minister Praman Adireksan has ordered the ban on establishing or expanding glass manufacturing projects to be reviewed.

Police General Praman's secretary, Burin Hiranburana, said if the total capacity of existing glass plants was found to be lower than local demand, the ministry would lift a five-year ban imposed last April by Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha when he held the industry portfolio.

The Industrial Economic Division was finding out if the production capacity exceeded the demand as Mr Banhan was told before imposing the ban.

According to Thai-Asahi Glass [TAG] Company, the largest plate glass manufacturer in the country, the total production of plate glass is about 580 [metric] tons per day, of which 480 tons are manufactured by TAG and 100 tons by Siam Plate Glass Co. TAG said the country's glass supply would rise to 860 tons a day in 1991 when Bangkok Float Glass Co starts production.

TAG estimated domestic demand for plate glass was 400 tons per day last year and would rise 18 percent to about 472 tons this year, 9 percent to about 515 tons next year and 7 percent a year from 1992 to 1999, when the demand would be around 900 tons per day.

The Industry Ministry's ban had effectively suspended Siam Cement Co's [SCC] planned 3,000-million-baht float glass joint venture with U.S.-based Guardian Industries Inc.

The issue became controversial when Prime Minister's Office Minister Kon Thappharangsi expressed his support for the SCC's joint venture project and he ordered the Board of Investment, which is under his supervision, to conduct a final study whether or not local glass supply would exceed domestic demand.

Moreover, U.S. authorities, including Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher, also voiced concern over the venture being blocked.

The U.S. glass maker submitted a study to Thai authorities claiming there would be no glut in Thailand's glass supply. In fact, the study showed, the market demand was higher than the supply—a factor which has kept glass prices relatively high.

Guardian also alleged that its joint venture with SCC failed to get Thai Government approval because it would threaten to break the longstanding manufacturing monopoly of Thai-Asahi.

Mr Burin said if the Industry Ministry's new findings showed an inadequate supply, new glass projects would be allowed. But permission would not be granted only to any specific investor which had applied earlier.

Vietnam

Vu Hien Article Views Challenges to Socialism

BK0403154990 Hanoi TAP CHI CONG SAN in Vietnamese Jan 90 pp 81-84

[Article by Vu Hien: "New Challenges Facing Socialism"]

[Text] Many socialist countries have implemented restructuring, renovation, and reform, and have scored initial achievements. Some nations have found their appropriate paths. However, world socialism is facing new challenges. Almost all socialist countries have experienced complicated situations, some have even faced a politico-socioeconomic crisis.

The Soviet Union, for instance, has experienced acute difficulties. Its economic growth has declined and inflation and budget deficits have increased, while consumer goods shortages are serious. Against this background, the socio-political situation in this country is developing in a complicated manner—strikes and demonstrations have been held in many localities, different political organizations and concepts have emerged, and the nationalities issue has become increasingly acute, while the party's position and prestige face a great ordeal.

In Europe, many stormy events have shaken the continent. Changes in European countries have produced a chain reaction that is developing complicatedly and rapidly. Opposition and uprising forces in all socialist countries in Eastern Europe have taken this opportunity to gain an offensive position, strive to win the people's support, consolidate their organizations, and continue to surge forward. There have been major changes in all leading organs of the communist parties and state mechanisms in these countries. There have also been swift changes, in some nations in very short periods of time. A number of general secretaries—top communist party leaders—have been dismissed. Many Council of Ministers chairmen have been prosecuted by the courts. In one country, a party general secretary cum Council of State chairman was sentenced to death. Unity within the communist party has been seriously affected and split while the administrative mechanism has been neutralized. In many countries, the people have lost confidence in the party and even the laboring class has abandoned it. The socialist model has been reviewed, while the entire socio-political system built in accordance with this model has been eliminated.... In this situation, some people have asked: Does socialism still exist?

It is obvious that socialism is facing a crisis. This crisis has not only shown contradictions between socialism and capitalism on the global scale, but most importantly, it has also shown contradictions in the process of building socialism. These unresolved contradictions from within have accumulated and have become an antagonism in a number of socialist countries.

There were many factors leading to this crisis, and each nation has its own unique factors. The general factor, however, has been the responsibility of the communist party—the ruling party. Reality has shown that in many socialist countries, the communist party made serious mistakes.

The most serious mistake was a failure to design a correct, effective social leadership mechanism. As it was, the party took its seat assuming permanent leadership, controlled the entire administration, and assumed all power. It was a party of the state, but it stood above the state and could do whatever it wanted. With this kind of leadership mechanism, top party leaders had more authority and sometimes were above the law. The party leaders' will and acts were symbols for every aspect of social life. As a result, the party was bureaucratized. Many party leaders—leaders of society—were inclined to arbitrariness, despotism, and usurpation of power.... In some places, worship of the individual leader reached the point of oddity.

Assuming the position of leading society, a number of parties have made mistakes by clinging to subjectivism and voluntariness, belittled the objective development of the law of society, and appreciated only the good sides of socialism, while failing to actively and promptly resolve contradictions that arose during the process of building socialism. Because the party assumed all power and stayed above the law, a number of cadres and party members in many socialist countries were involved in cases of embezzlement, enjoying special privileges and abusing their power, thereby damaging the party's prestige and the people's confidence in the party.

Many Western commentators said that "socialism is withering away." This appraisal was, however, premature and probably made on a prejudiced stand. It can be said that socialism is advancing in many socialist countries and that the communists are striving to restore and build true socialism to suit the new era, while resolutely eliminating socialist models that were designed from deformed, distorted concepts. True, socialism is facing a crisis, but this is a logical phenomenon and is in accordance with the developing law. The majority of members of the vanguard forces of the workers' class, the laboring people, and the intelligentsia in a number of countries wanted to depart from all old, obsolete ideas. This is to cut off all tumors on the body of socialism—a heartrending act, but one that is necessary. It is a turning point of the revolution departing from the bureaucratic centralized social system in which human dignity was downgraded to a tool and an object for development.

While reviewing factors leading to a crisis facing socialism, we must also take into account the schemes of imperialism. Why has imperialism closely monitored or even encouraged restructuring and renovation in socialist countries? Is it possible that imperialism wants to assist socialism? Absolutely not. What imperialism wants is a state of instability facing socialism. Imperialism has always sought ways to restore its position in weakened regions and areas where vigilance was neglected by the revolutionary forces. The most recent obstinate act of U.S. imperialism in Panama has clearly exposed the true nature of Mr. Bush, who likes to talk about love and righteousness.

In the past, socialism had undergone two ordeals. The first one came immediately after the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution with an attack launched against the Soviet Union, a nascent revolutionary nation, by 14 imperialist countries. The second one was the struggle against fascism in World War II. History has forever recorded the Soviet people's merit in firmly defending the socialist revolutionary achievements. The current ordeal, however, is different from the past two. The events stem from socialism itself. The developing potential of the situation is very complicated. It is difficult to find a generally correct answer for this, because each nation has and each event stems from different factors and conditions. Even in the same country, different political tendencies were prevalent. In some nations, the opposition forces were those opposing the communist party; in other countries it was the majority of members of the communist party that wanted to change the party leaders who had lost the people's confidence. In any event, we must take into account the schemes of imperialism and activities of the opportunists and reactionaries. It could be that at a demonstration in a given country, there might be different forces and political groups who together raised placards opposing leadership of the communist party and denouncing violation of human rights at the same time.

It is easy to understand why people are worried about the fate of socialism in the face of this challenge. The situation is very complicated and causes serious concern. Nonetheless, one should see the positive aspect of this upheaval. Obviously, as far as countries where the communist parties still maintain power and assume a leading role in society are concerned, this challenge has a positive aspect because it requires party members to purify themselves, rectify mistakes, and make efforts for self-improvement in order to be worthy of the duties entrusted to them. Thus, the current developments in the socialist countries should also be understood as people-led revolutions to get rid of old-fashioned, backward elements and to effect positive changes. This also means that even when the communist parties are no longer the ruling forces as is the case of Eastern Europe, socialist ideals and orientations will not be easily eliminated because these ideals and orientations have already taken deep root in the people and because socialist thinking is invincible by nature. How can socialism overcome this challenge? Time and actual developments of the situation will answer this question. Nonetheless, based on the violent shocks that socialism has undergone, one can draw the following lessons:

1. Since the socialist countries were late to begin their undertaking, the socialist revolution to build a more advanced production method than that of capitalism

requires a very high sense of self-discipline. Because of its leading role, the communist party must heighten this sense of self-discipline more than anyone else by striving to become a highly competent and thoroughly revolutionary vanguard army. It is the party's noble objective to serve the people's interests. The party bears responsibility before the people in the national situation. The party must truly serve as the conscience of the nation and the era. The party must necessarily change its leadership mechanism and constantly renovate itself in order to keep pace with changes of the era.

2. The current general socialist modality has proved to be irrational. Theoretically, one must redefine socialism, and each country must formulate its own path and work methods suitable with the developments of the national and international situations.

3. Reform, restructuring, and renovation in the socialist countries form an inevitable trend of development and are part of a turning wheel. If one fails to firmly grasp this trend and act accordingly, one will eventually be crushed by it. It is of utmost importance to seek appropriate ways to guarantee high results while at the same time avoid major setbacks and disturbances.

4. Democracy constitutes an urgent demand of the masses, an attribute of a civilized society, and a motive behind social progress. Now that peoples in the socialist countries have become increasingly enlightened and a communications explosion has taken place worldwide, if the party distances itself from the masses and violates democratic principles, then it can hardly avoid the people's reaction and all-ensuing unpredictable consequences.

5. International cooperation and communications have developed on an increasingly large-scale basis. In the process of seeking ways to overcome economic difficulties and achieve international cooperation and world labor division, the socialist countries must not harbor the illusion of turning to imperialism for assistance. The imperialist forces' infiltration and sabotage activities pose a greater danger now that the socialist countries have been subjected to internal disturbances. Lessons from the past and present indicate that imperialism has never been a knight coming to the rescue of socialism.

Discussions Held on Mass Proselytizing Work

Retirees Meet

BK0503122590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Report by Nguyen Nhu Vinh on meeting held at the Club of Retirees in Dong Da precinct of Hanoi to exchange views on the party Central Committee's eighth plenum draft platform—date not given]

[Text] All those attending the meeting welcomed the party Central Committee's stance on soliciting opinions from party members and outsiders on its draft platform. However, upon studying the details of the draft platform, many of the meeting's participants found that its contents are not practical and only provide a general outline for mass proselytizing work. Uncle Nguyen Ngan, alias Tu Ngoc, from Kim Lien ward said that although he is not a party member, he is deeply concerned about the changes that have occurred among the parties of those fraternal countries in East Europe which have undergone such complex changes. He also said that he was filled with joy when the draft platform was broadcast on the radio, saying that this is a way out for our party.

Regarding the assessment of the party's situation, many at the meeting suggested that the party organization must be correctly, fully, and scrupulously replenished. For instance, why is it that a number of people have lost faith in the party and its members? We cannot issue a correct and practical resolution unless we discover the main causes for this. Some people held that the platform was drafted in a perfunctory manner and that because the party had not reviewed its mass proselytizing work for a long time, it had failed to draw on experience for an accurate assessment of this work to serve as the basis for the people to contribute their views. Uncle Dao Khoan of Kim Lien ward said: The draft platform fails to mention the fact that various mass organizations—such as the youth union, the women's union, and the trade union—have been formalized and are operating separately without close coodination. Even the National Assembly has operated without close coordination because two-thirds of its deputies are party members. Comrade Hien Tien Van and Uncle Nguyen Ngan from Kim Lien ward affirmed: No one denies the party's leadership. However, the important thing is that the party should attach itself closely to the masses and should not allow itself to be seen as an umbrella which is far away and cannot be reached.

Uncle Yen from Tien Giang ward asked: Why has the Vietnam War Veterans' Association not come into being despite the fact that Comrade Le Duc Anh, minister of national defense, has declared the establishment of this association? It has been mentioned in the draft platform that in the near future there will be more social organizations. What are these social organizations? Comrade Trieu Huong Quang proposed that the Political Bureau and the party Central Committee quickly scrutinize the issue concerning the establishment of the Vietnam War Veterans' Association.

In their statements, many delegates revealed such practices as corruption, bureaucratism, factionalism, and the persecution of cadres and the people by party cadres and members at many levels. Emphatically noteworthy are the number of new village bullies in the rural areas; the lack of democracy and social justice; the greed for special privileges; and the practices of delaying legal action against, granting pardons to, and even protecting criminals. Uncles Tan and Long from Kim Lien ward suggested that steps be taken by certain law organs to clarify the many cases involving arbitrary arrest and detention that still remain unsolved in their locality.

Finally, the delegates proposed a number of specific tasks to supplement the draft platform. These involve the need to review and evaluate mass-proselytizing work in the past and at present, to appraise the performance of mass proselytizing work by all party chapters and party members, to seek a thorough explanation as to why the people have lost faith in the party, to openly point out the erroneous policies that have done us harm and measures against these policies, and to severely deal with party organizations and party cadres and members at all levels that have committed mistakes in executing policies and performing duties.

To improve mass proselytizing work we must put the party and all party organization echelons in order. The Political Bureau must be self-critical and must answer to criticism before the masses. It is also necessary to redetermine the functions, powers, duties, and components of the party and of all mass organizations and, on that basis, determine the relations between the administration and people. This is to ensuring that democracy, openness, and social justice are realized. We must immediately eliminate all privileges—such as the provision of automobiles and houses—and other irrational systems. We must openly declare various priority systems to inform the people and allow them to supervise. Systems must be established for the declaration of assets by cadres with high positions of authority. It is also necessary to resolutely reduce staff personnel of various managerial organizations, party apparatuses, and mass organizations to eliminate irrationalities. Each party organization and mass organization is known to have a heavy apparatus like that of the state. Currently, all expenditures weigh heavily on the state budget. How can we endure this? We should enact educational taxes to ensure additional income for teachers, and base this income on such criteria as teaching skills and teaching hours. Otherwise, the education sector will decline and many teachers will give up their profession.

It is necessary to examine the present indiscriminate expansion of services among all organs and enterprises—including those belonging to the party, Army, administration, and mass organizations—involving such phenomena as evading taxes and trading in contraband goods across various borders. It is this indiscriminate expansion of services which has given rise to the number of opportunistic and depraved cadres, the losses of state property, and the weakening of the people's faith in the party and administration. It is also necessary to vindicate those who have been subjected to false charges. Generally speaking, the delegates all maintained that the essence and contents of the requirements for improving mass proselytizing work must begin by improving the party itself. They all expressed their faith in gradual renovation and in the process of realizing democracy, openness, social justice, and a stable economy. They all expressed the hope for restoration of the people's confidence in the party.

Residents Give Views

BK0603091590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Feb 90

[Statements by Mr. Nguyen Binh Cuong and Ms. Nguyen Thanh Ha, Ho Chi Minh City residents, expressing their personal views on the party's draft platform on mass proselytizing work; date not given—portions recorded]

[Text] Dear friends: With the party Central Committee Secretariat making public a draft platform of its eighth plenum for soliciting suggestions from the people of various strata, there have been debates held by various localities in which the people have contributed useful and practical suggestions. You are invited to listen to the opinions of Mr. Nguyen Dinh Cuong, an Assault Youth Union member of Ho Chi Minh City:

[Begin recording] Ideologically, our Assault Youth Union cadres and members totally agree with the party's platform, especially following the issue of the party Central Committee's seventh plenum resolution. Through a statement made by Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh on the occasion of the 60th founding anniversary of the party, 3 February, we note with great pleasure that the party has looked squarely at the truth and has accurately evaluated the actual situation in order to devise measures to adjust the renovation undertaking to suit the current domestic situation.

Fully aware of the current world developments, especially those in East European socialist countries, and of the very complex ideological changes in our country, we have concentrated our greatest efforts on providing ideological education and leadership for the masses. Therefore, we have not had any major ideological changes in our assault youth force. The making public of the draft platform shows that the party has concerned itself with work regarding mass organizations because mass organizations are the party's right hand and also because they serve as a link between the masses and the party. However, I do not think the party has paid enough attention to mass organizations. We cannot allow various units to do whatever they want. Instead, we must give them specific guidance. Only by doing so can we mobolize mass organizations to guide and educate the people and draw them toward the party. Last year, the party failed to deal with the work regarding mass organizations. This made it impossible for mass organizations to satisfactorily perform their duties. I propose that prior to the promulgation of the party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution, the city party committee must create conditions for trade union cadres to respect the rights of workers and civil servants and for workers to truly become masters of their units. [end recording]

Ms. Nguyen Thanh Ha of the Women's Union of the First Precinct, Ho Chi Minh City, contributes the following opinion to the program:

[Begin recording] We are elated over the party's mass proselytizing work, especially when our organization is

the direct practitioner of mass proselytizing work. The making public of the platform shows the party's concern over and the importance of mass proselytizing work in the current situation. To satisfactorily contribute to the party Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution, our Region-1 Women's Union has the following opinion:

In mass proselyting work, the party must provide concentrated, unified, and uniform leadership for various units, sectors, and echelons. Especially, all organs of power must concentrate on carrying out mass proselytizing work satisfactorily. This must be reflected in how these organs solve a problem, their attitudes when receiving the people, and their mass-oriented attitude. All sectors and mass organizations must strive to understand the feelings of the masses. On this basis, appropriate measures will be studied and drawn up to meet the people's requirements. Meanwhile, positive efforts must be made to oppose all manifestations of bureaucracy and officialdom, especially negative phenomena, in order to consolidate the confidence of the popular masses. [Words indistinct] [end recording]

Symposium Held on Women's Role in Renovation

BK0603080290 Hanoi VNA in English 0724 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 6—A symposium with the theme 'Vietnamese Women Intellectuals in National Renovation' was organized here on Monday by the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers on the occasion of the 80th International Women's Day (March 8).

The symposium was attended by a large number of women intellectuals working in different scientific branches.

According to reports presented at the symposium, women make up 7.6 percent of the university and higher level graduates, 49.5 percent of the tertiary education granduates, and 58.9 percent of the graduates from secondary vocational colleges. Many women are in charge of state-level projects. So far, ten women have won the Kovalevskaya prize awarded annually to women with outstanding scientific contributions.

It was proposed at the symposium that the state should promulgate new policies ensuring democracy and equality between men and women and creating favourable conditions for women to bring into full play their capabilities and creativeness to contribute more to the cause of renovation of the country.

Paper Ridicules Western World's 'Generosity'

BK2302115790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Feb 90

[Unattributed commentary in QUAN DOI NHAN DAN—date not given—"The True Nature of the Free World's Generosity"]

[Summary] The 19 January 1990 issue of LIBERATION, published in Sweden, carried an article on the situation in Europe against the background of recent events. Regarding Western economic aid to Eastern Europe countries, the article says: "The sluggish economy of East European countries will not become effective with eloquent words of Western countries which beautify freedom and democracy. Nor will it become effective with leftover pieces of bread that are considered economic assistance." The free world countries are still far from being generous.

It should be noted that during these days of celebration over changes in Eastern Europe, "Turkey is not accepted into the European Community allegedly because there are no democratic conditions, and human rights are not completely respected in this country." In fact, this is not the reason. Where will developed EEC member countries relocate millions of poor Turks when the border is open in 1992? Also Great Britain has currently become the center of world attention as "it plans to forcibly repatriate Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong. This clearly indicates that to Mrs. Thatcher in a society of consumption, human beings can be material objects to be used and thrown away."

The free world's assistance to the Third World has never been unconditional and has never gone beyond the limit of ensuring dependence. "Not all that glitters is gold. Even if Western Europe wants to help, it cannot carry out major plans to help socialist countries," because even though countries of EEC and ESPA [expansion unknown] are seemingly living in a totally stabilized atmosphere of economic prosperity, Europe remains a continent where contradictions are becoming increasingly acute. An official source reveals that there are now 14 million jobless people excluding those underemployed on the continent. The 1988 figure was 18 million. Italy and Spain account for higher rates of unemployment.

It should be added that there would be a huge number of jobless people if socialist countries rearranged their management as advised by White House experts in order to establish a market economy. Moreover, the stability of the developed world in this case will cause a risk to European countries, "first of all, because relations between economically rich countries and the rest of the world are based on extremely unfair economic agreements." Developed countries can indulge in extravagant consumption and waste thanks to natural resources available in other countries. The excessive prosperity of some people is because of the poverty of others. This is what is called a balance. European countries do not need to look to the Third World to find poverty. Acute contradictions and sharp differences in the distribution of resources already exist in European countries such as "between northern and southern Italy" and in Spain.

London under the learderhip of the iron lady—a person who is most concerned with assisting the Eastern Europe countries—already has 75,000 people living on the

streets. Another very significant point is that when the Berlin wall broke open, the exodus was not at all massive as expected. When interviewed by Swedish television a youth returning from West Berlin said that only 3,000 of all the people fleeing to West Berlin want to remain there amidst an indifferent and egoistic atmosphere. It should be added that "neofascist groups have begun operating in the FRG and have already caused disturbances on the occasion of New Year's Day." "Social differences in Europe will become greater every day and will lead to serious conflicts. One must be careful or Europe will go backward even though one strives to prolong the so-called celebrations."

February TAP CHI CONG SAN Reviewed

BK2602142190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 26 Feb 90

[Summary] TAP CHI CONG SAN begins its February issue with a speech entitled: "Develop the Glorious Tradition To Be Worthy as the Political Vanguard of Society" delivered by party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh at a Hanoi meeting to celebrate the 60th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, 3 February.

Next comes an article: "Enhance the Leadership Ability and Militancy of Basic Party Organizations," saying that presently "the background knowledge, leadership, socio-economic management, and organizing ability of basic party committees and members have not been enhanced to meet new requirements" and that "the leadership role of basic party organizations is very important for the current renovation cause; thus it is necessary to promptly strengthen these organizations to enhance their leadership ability and militancy."

Next is an article by Le Xuan Vu: "Uncle Ho and the Building of Vietnam's New Culture," hailing President Ho Chi Minh for his efforts in building a new Vietnamese culture—the people's democratic culture and socialist culture.

This is followed by Minister of Forestry Phan Xuan Dot's article: "Thirty Years of Implementing Uncle Ho's Teaching on Tree Planting Campaign During Tet Festival," reviewing achievements scored through the 30 years of implementing the Tet tree planting campaigns initiated by Uncle Ho.

Next comes an article entitled: "A Person From a Rural Area: An Original Strength and Spirit of the Era," presenting Uncle Ho's life and work and analyzing his ideological concepts, which help accelerate the present renovation cause.

In the "Socialism—Retrospect and Renewal" column, the journal carries an article: "Scientific Seminar on the Democratic Issue in Our Country: Real Situation and Resolution," presenting arguments and ideas by political scientists and theoreticians on relations between democracy and leadership and between bourgeois and socialist democracy, on the standard of socialist democracy, and on basic measures to resolve the democratic issue in Vietnam for the present renovation cause.

Next comes an article by Ha Xuan Truong, editor in chief of TAP CHI CONG SAN, entitled: "The Democratic Issue," excerpting speeches at the opening and closing sessions of the scientific seminar. This is followed by Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee Vice-chairman Phan Anh's article: "Greater and More Basic Issues of Democracy: Leadership and Social Organization."

In the "Research and Exchange" column, there is an article by Nam Tam on socialist economic competition. Also in this column is an article by Nguyen Van Ky, lecturer at the Nguyen Ai Quoc Institute, discussing Lenin's concepts on state capitalism.

In the "Opinions and Experience" column, the journal carries an article by Nguyen Phu Trong: "Factors That Form Party Members' Prestige," discussing declining party prestige, factors leading to this deterioration, and measures to restore the people's confidence in the party. This is followed by Tran Van Dan's article: "Some Ideas on Renovation of Party Mass-Proselytizing Work at the Grass Roots," on measures to renovate the party mass-proselytizing work at grass-roots units.

In the "Letters to the Editorial Staff" column, the journal carries an article by Trung Dung: "Renovate Cadres Responsible for Organizational Work."

"The World: Problems and Events" column has an article by Nguyen Thanh Tuan: "Science and Technology Under Capitalism," discussing orientations and objectives of science and technology policy in developing countries and scientific-technological impact on developing national economy. Next is an article by Le Tinh: "No New Proof on Harmony Between Socialism and Capitalism," analyzing problems of ownership, distribution of goods, management mechanism, and production relations under socialism and capitalism.

Australia

Jump in Imports Causes 'Biggest' Deficit

BK0103072690 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Australia has recorded one of its biggest current account deficits—nearly $2,000 million [currency not further specified]. Official figures just released showed the amount was $1,960 million. Radio Australia's Canberra office says the deficit—more than double the previous month's—was mainly due to seasonally adjusted three percent government exports with a fall wool income and 15 percent jump in imports.

The import bill was boosted by more than $300 million in aircraft purchases by Australia's overseas airline, Qantas.

Our office says while there is immediate concern over the monthly rise in imports, the trend in consumer import growth is falling as the economy slows because of high interest rates.

Papua New Guinea

Swedish Diplomat Arrives To Monitor Cease-Fire

BK0303123290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Port Moresby, March 3 (AFP)—A Swedish diplomat was among the first of a team of international observers on Bougainville to monitor a cease-fire between government forces and secessionists, an official said here Saturday [3 March].

A spokesman for Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu said Bo Erickson, a counsellor at the Swedish Embassy in Canberra, arrived Saturday on Bougainville Island for preliminary talks. Mr. Erickson was accompanied by Peter Wallensteen, a conflict resolution expert.

They had preliminary meetings with representatives of the government and the rebel landowners, who have been demanding 10 billion kina (10 billion U.S.) compensation from Bougainville Copper Ltd. for its mining operations on the island and secession from the rest of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Namaliu said in a statement that his government had invited Commonwealth and Scandinavian countries to monitor the cease-fire, signed Wednesday by the government and militant leader Sam Kauona. He said the monitoring team should be in place early next week, with its task to observe "the withdrawal of our security forces and the laying down of arms by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army."

The cease-fire came into effect at dawn Friday, bringing a halt to the conflict which has claimed more than 80 lives since fighting broke out in November, 1988.

"The current situation in the province is peaceful, quiet and encouraging," Mr. Namaliu said.

Rebel Leader To Make Peace Appeal to Followers

BK0603084190 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The commander of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, Mr. Sam Kauona, is due to issue an appeal to his men tonight for them to lay down their weapons. Mr. Kauona made the appeal in a message recorded by Radio North Solomons to be broadcast over the station.

He also called on his men not to cause any more destruction to property owned by the Papua New Guinea Government, the Bougainville Copper Company, and other companies. He also called on his men not to attack security force members as they prepare to move out of the island following the signing of the cease-fire.

Security forces on Bougainville started moving out at the weekend with the last batch due to leave the island on 16 March.

Soloman Islands

Vanuatu's Lini Arrives for Melanesian Summit

BK0303141890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Vanuatu's prime minister, Father Walter Lini, has arrived in Solomon Islands' capital for the summit of the prime ministers of the Melanesian Spearhead Group which starts next Wednesday [7 March]. Father Lini is accompanied by his foreign minister, Mr Donald Kalpokas, and other Vanuatu Government officials.

Solomon Islands prime minister, Mr Solomon Mamaloni, and Papua New Guinea's Rabbie Namaliu are to lead their country's delegations at the three-day summit.

The agenda for the meeting is yet to be released, but Radio Australia's correspondent in Honiara, Johnson Honhai, says the three leaders are expected to discuss issues such as trade, education, and cultural exchanges between the countries.